





## Paris distances itself from Mitterrand's call for EU meeting on crisis in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Interior Minister Charles Pasqua put distance on Sunday between the French government and President Francois Mitterrand over the head of state's controversial proposal for a European-sponsored peace conference for Algeria.

"You put me in a difficult situation because it's the president of the republic," Mr. Pasqua said during a television interview when asked about Mr. Mitterrand's proposal.

"I am a member of his government and at the same time I am not certain that we were a partner in this move," Mr. Pasqua said on Luxembourg television's Grand Jury Public Affairs show.

France's centre-right government "cohabits" with Socialist Mitterrand.

Relations between Algeria and France, its former colonial master, were thrown into crisis over Mr. Mitterrand's suggestion that a platform drafted by Algerian opposition groups in Rome last month could serve as the basis for a European Union (EU) conference on Algeria.

Algeria on Saturday recalled its ambassador to France and called in the French ambassador in Algiers to question him on Mr. Mitterrand's proposal.

Algerian state radio called the plan "interference" generated by what it called Mr. Mitterrand's hatred of Algerian independence, achieved from France in 1962 after a savage eight-year war.

The country has been torn by civil strife since 1992, when the military-backed authorities cancelled elections the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

An estimated 30,000 people have died in the struggle between authorities and Muslim militants battling to overthrow them.

French cabinet members had previously praised the Rome opposition platform, but government policy has been to let the Algerians settle their own disputes.

The hard-line Pasqua said it was the French government that had "sensitized" its European allies to the problem of extremism and said European experts were meeting this week in Paris to discuss the issue.

Mr. Pasqua ordered police raids and widespread identity checks across France last summer after fundamentalists shot dead five French officials in an embassy housing compound in Algiers.

More than 20 suspected activists were detained and later deported to the West African nation of Burkina Faso.

He also accused Germany and the United States of tolerating extremist fundamentalist activities within their borders.

"Each time that it has been necessary, the (French) police have intervened," he told Luxembourg television, stating that 500 people linked to fundamentalism had been arrested and 250 of these referred to the justice system.

"I can tell you today that we remain vigilant and that each time it becomes necessary we will carry out arrests and expulsions," he said.

**More threats**

An official of Algeria's former ruling party was found decapitated, security forces said Sunday as radical Islamic



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday meets with scouts and guides taking part in a charity drive (Petra photo).

## Ramadan campaign under way

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday reviewed the work of boy scouts and girl guides involved in collecting contributions for the needy families within the year's charity campaign launched during the month of Ramadan by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The Princess met scouts and guides at the Hashemite Square downtown to discuss the campaign.

Nearly 10,000 young male and female students, members of the scout movements in Jordan, are involved in the campaign to raise funds and in-kind contributions for needy families to be distributed during or after the Holy Month.

The Princess was briefed by the participants on the progress of the campaign and lauded their efforts and voluntary services for the nation.

Later the Princess met the president and members of the board of the Amman Chamber of Commerce to discuss the campaign.

Lauding merchants' support for the charity campaign, the Princess said the contributions reflected their keenness on helping the poor in a show of social solidarity.

The Princess told the meeting that the contributions would help QAF to extend assistance to the family heads to start a small business and become self-reliant.

Chamber President Haydar Murad welcomed the Princess and said that the contributions manifest the determination to ensure social solidarity in the Kingdom.

Mr. Murad called on the citizens and merchants to contribute generously to the campaign and announced a donation of JD60,000 to this year's campaign.

## Somali warlord proposes conference

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad on Monday proposed a national reconciliation conference to provide a lawful country with a central government presiding over regions with a high degree of autonomy.

The plan — the result of deliberations in north Mogadishu over three months and 21 days by a "peace conference" among allies of the self-styled "president" — was immediately dismissed by Mohammad Qanyare Afrah, chairman of a rival "peace conference" in south Mogadishu among allies of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

Mr. Ali Mahdi's arch-enemy, Mr. Afrah's reaction — that the initiative was "unrealistic, contradictory, and signed by individuals who do not represent any faction" — made it clear that the stand off between Mr. Ali Mahdi and General Aided will continue as the last 8,000 U.N. troops and civilians leave Somalia, which has been without a government since the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991.

Their departure is expected to be followed by battles for Mogadishu's port and airport.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Bush plot' verdicts due on Feb. 20

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's cassation court on Monday adjourned until Feb. 20 its verdicts on seven Iraqis and two Kuwaitis accused of plotting to kill former President George Bush, justice officials said. The verdict was postponed because the court's presiding judge, Abdul Wahid Al Issa, was out of the country, officials told reporters here. Five Iraqis and one Kuwaiti were sentenced to death by the state security court on June 4 for involvement in a plot to assassinate Mr. Bush during a visit to Kuwait in April 1993. Seven others — six Iraqis and one Kuwaiti — were sentenced to prison terms ranging from six months to 12 years. A third Kuwaiti was acquitted. Nine others, appealing against their sentences with the others having already served their jail terms.

### Killer of Egyptian actress to hang

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian criminal court sentenced to death by hanging the killer of comic actress Widad Hamdi. Cairo newspapers reported on Monday. They said the verdict was endorsed by Egypt's grand mufti, Sheikh Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi. Hamdi was stabbed to death in her Cairo apartment last year by film impresario Matta Hanna Ghali who confessed to police that he carried out the murder because he was short of money and had planned to rob her. Hamdi, 65, specialised in playing the role of servants.

### Israel rescues families of 'collaborators'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The army is to move the families of 11 Arab informers from the Gaza Strip to safety in Israel, military officials said Monday. They are among about 40 families, mostly bedouins of Egyptian origin, who live under army protection in a "collaborator" village called Dehaneh in the south of the Gaza Strip. The group will be re-settled near Beerseva in the desert south of Tel Aviv, a "constant provocation" by Palestinian police. The Jewish state, which has armed some collaborators, has promised to take in thousands of those who informed on their Palestinian neighbours. Some have been granted Israeli nationality and given new identities.

### Keep off Israeli buses, U.S. warns staff

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The United States embassy in Israel has told staff not to use public transport in the wake of a suicide bombing which killed 21 people at a bus stop. The warning is primarily aimed at buses because of the high incidence of attacks, an embassy official told AFP on Monday. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for blowing up 21 Israelis on Jan. 22 near the coastal resort of Netanya. A total of 56 people have died in four bus bombings carried out over the last 10 months by militants opposed to the Middle East peace process. The official said staff at the embassy received a warning letter on Jan. 23, which was in fact an updated reminder of long-standing safety instructions.

### Egyptian on trial for 1993 hijacking

DUESSELDORF (AP) — An Egyptian man went on trial here Monday for a 1993 airline hijacking that was meant to force U.S. authorities to free a Muslim cleric accused of plotting to blow up New York City landmarks. No connection has turned up between air pirate Khalid Gharib and Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric who is on trial in New York City. Wearing sunglasses and constantly smiling on the first day of his own trial, Gharib told the Dusseldorf state court he had received frequent psychiatric treatment while in the Egyptian military. Saying he had a bomb in his suitcase, Gharib commandeered an Amsterdam-bound Dutch KLM airliner shortly after takeoff from Tunis, Tunisia on Aug. 15, 1993 and forced it to land in Dusseldorf. Gharib made a number of demands, including that Sheikh Abdul Rahman be flown to Egypt. Throughout the 11-hour hijacking Gharib had his hands on small boxes that were in his front trouser pockets. Police feared the boxes were remote-control devices but they turned out to be cigarette packets. Gharib let all 131 passengers and all but two crew members leave the Boeing 737 at Dusseldorf airport. The pilot and chief steward climbed out the cockpit window while Gharib was using the toilet. A crack German anti-terrorist unit stormed the plane and arrested Gharib without firing a shot as he was leaving the toilet.

### Iranian deputy sentenced to jail

TEHRAN (AFP) — A member of the Iranian parliament has been sentenced to one year in prison and 30 lashes of the whip for bribery, a newspaper reported here Monday. Majid Naderi, a deputy from the Boin-Zahra region, 150 kilometres west of Tehran, was convicted by a special religious court as he had been a clergyman, the English-language Iran News said. "He was convicted of abusing his position for personal gains," it said adding that he had also been fined 10 million rials (around \$4,000). The paper added that Mr. Naderi and his four accomplices had been "involved in a 110 million rials (\$45,000) scam," but did not give details. The other four were also sentenced to jail. The authorities have repeatedly announced in the past few months plans to crack down on corruption, which has become widespread and has created strong public resentment.

### Route chosen for road to avoid pyramids

CAIRO (AFP) — The government has chosen a new route for a Cairo motorway to avoid the pyramids after protests from UNESCO, Culture Minister Farouk Hosni announced. "This route will not cross the region of the pyramids, from Giza to Dahshut," covering an area of 22 square kilometres, he said at a meeting on Sunday in which Prime Minister Atef Sedki also took part. "It's an urgent solution which will protect the region of the pyramids. The route will also not cross the Memphis cemetery," Mr. Hosni told a special government committee formed to discuss the new ring road for Cairo.

## Washington supports Yemeni-Saudi talks

SANAA (Agencies) — The United States on Sunday expressed support for negotiations in the 60-year-old Yemen-Saudi border dispute and urged good relations between the two Arabian Peninsula countries.

Sanaa Radio said President Bill Clinton in a written message to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh expressed Washington's "welcome and support of the talks between the two countries with the aim of reaching a solution to the border issue."

The radio said Mr. Clinton, in the message conveyed by U.S. Ambassador to Sanaa David Newton, also expressed the administration's "keenness for the existence of good and cordial relations between the two neighbouring countries in a way consolidating security, peace and stability in the area."

There were border clashes in December and talks have been going on in Riyadh between Yemen and Saudi Arabia for two weeks.

The United States maintains strategic relations with Saudi Arabia and enjoys good ties with Yemen whose democratic process and multi-party system is encouraged by Washington, diplomats said.

Diplomats said on Sunday that Yemen, once a close ally of Iraq, has sent Iraqi military advisers back home after Washington expressed concern over their presence.

The London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat said on Saturday Yemen's relations with Washington had improved following the decision to get rid of the advisers, who had been training its pilots on advanced MIG-29 fighter planes.

Official Yemeni sources declined to comment on the report.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia accuse each other of moving troops to the potentially oil-rich border area, disputed for 60 years.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Arudyani said in Cairo on Saturday he believed Riyadh had pulled back its forces from the area and denied his country had massed troops there.

Dr. Arudyani visited Egypt, Syria and Jordan to brief their leaders on developments in the border talks.

Diplomats said on Sunday Yemen is seeking international support for a mechanism to monitor its disputed border with Saudi Arabia and ease tension between the two countries.

They said Yemen had revived an idea of forming a joint military committee of Yemeni and Saudi chiefs of staff and Egyptian and Syrian representatives, first aired by official Yemeni sources last month but received coolly by Saudi Arabia.

It was not clear if Mr. Saleh raised this issue with Mr. Newton during their meeting.

Yemen is still recovering from a secessionist rebellion led by the army of former South Yemen which was crushed last July.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia opened talks in Riyadh on Jan. 23 to prevent new clashes on the border after Yemen accused Saudi Arabia of massing troops and tanks along its northeastern frontier.

Arab diplomats in Riyadh said the talks were stalled Sunday after Yemen negotiators demanded the demarcation of the whole of the border between the two countries.

## Greek experts cast doubt on Alexander's tomb

CAIRO (AFP) — An official Greek delegation on Sunday cast doubt on a Greek archaeologist's claim to have discovered the long-lost tomb of Alexander the Great in Egypt's western desert.

Liana Souvaltzis based her claim on inscriptions which she said referred directly to Alexander the Great on three standing blocks — or steles — discovered at Al Maraki, 16 kilometres northwest of the desert oasis of Siwa.

"I do not know if we have seen all the inscriptions, but those we have seen have nothing to do with the period of (Alexander's contemporary) Ptolemy I, and neither his name nor that of Alexander appears," said Yannis Tzedakis, head of Greece's archaeology services and a member of the delegation.

Ms. Souvaltzis, 47, has been excavating the site of a Doric temple at Al-Maraki, 750 kilometres west of Cairo for six years.

She said she had "irrefutable proof" that she had discovered the tomb of Alexander the Great, who died in 323 B.C. at the age of 33.

However, some Western experts reacted with scepticism to Tuesday's announcement of her discovery, insisting that Alexander was laid to rest in Alexandria, the port city he founded in 332 B.C.

The Greek delegation of experts arrived in Egypt Thursday to check the authenticity of the discovery.

"The fragments of inscriptions we have been shown belong to the Roman era, at the start of the second century A.D.," Mr. Tzedakis told reporters after visiting the site.

The head of the delegation, George Thomas, secretary-general of the Culture Ministry in Athens, added a note of caution.

"Such a short visit in the absence of the archaeologist, who unfortunately could not be with us because of commitments in Cairo, is not enough to confirm the opinions" of Ms. Souvaltzis, Mr. Thomas said in a statement.

He described her discovery as "an important architectural monument."

"Respect for history and deontology means we must wait for the excavation to be completed and the first scientific publication to be made," he said.

However, he added, the inscriptions seen by the delegation "belong chronologically to the Roman era."

Alexander the Great was crowned in the temple of God Ammon in Siwa in 330 B.C., three years after conquering Egypt. After he died in Babylon, his body was brought to Egypt for burial.

But his tomb was never found until now, insisted Ms. Souvaltzis, who was backed in her claim by Abdul Halim Noureddin, head of the Egyptian antiquities authority.

At a press conference Saturday, Ms. Souvaltzis said she called on "the Greek people to be very proud that Greek hands have discovered the tomb of the greatest Greek of all times," and refused to answer questions from non-Greek reporters.

## Lawyers announce

AMMAN (Petra) — Lawyers announced their candidate for the presidency and 28 others for the Bar's election on March 10. A total of 28 are eligible to take part in

## Fuel distributors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Petroleum Corporation (M) of fuel distributors to the metres and measurement distributing fuel until such as concerned. The M distributors were violating specification law, by measures, thus affecting

## 14,000 tonnes of sugar

AOABA (Petra) — A tonnes of sugar destined to be now docked in Aqaba, which is being warehouses in Aqaba, to other cities later on the local markets.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Cocottes Minutes  
17:30 ..... Que Le Mielleur Cagne  
18:00 ..... Page  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:30 ..... Profiles of the Muslim World  
19:45 ..... Portrait  
19:50 ..... Home Improvement  
20:30 ..... Road to Avonlea  
21:51 ..... Space Shuttle Discovery  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Wild Fables  
22:59 ..... Feature film: "Bird on a Wire"

## PRAYER TIMES

06:03 ..... Fair  
06:22 ..... Sunrise/Duha  
11:50 ..... Dhuhur  
14:51 ..... 'Asr  
17:18 ..... Maghreh  
18:37 ..... 'Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swatfeh, Tel. 810740  
Latter Day Saints Church, Tel. 827878  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

## Terrace Church Tel. 622266

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623511  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625258  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 654195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 624023  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Bahjat Badr ..... 849362  
Dr. Mahmoud Hindi ..... 867677  
Dr. Mohammad Al 'Abdhi ..... 778959  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashab ..... 602507  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 773336  
Al Asana pharmacy ..... 837055  
Najrouh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 646945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637661  
Najrouh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847652

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALNDAR

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 4-7  
Aqaba ..... 9-17  
Deserts ..... 8-14  
Jordan Valley ..... 2-9

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 7, Aqaba 20, Humidity  
readings: Amman 75 per cent,  
Aqaba 48 per cent.

# USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Bahjat Badi ..... 649362  
Dr. Mahmoud Hindi ..... 967677  
Dr. Mohammad Al' Ahmadi ..... 778959  
Dr. Arafat Al' Ashab ..... 602507  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Forensic pharmacy ..... 778334  
Al' Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairotkh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al' Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644948  
Shamsan pharmacy ..... 644941  
Nairotkh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 647832

IRBID:  
Dr. Mohammad Al' Hilu ..... 222093  
Alqads pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh ..... 982909  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

# EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 625402  
Traffic Police ..... 860390  
Public Security Department ..... 636221  
Hotel Complaints ..... 661049  
Price Complaints ..... 661174  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 697467  
Amman Municipality ..... 767111  
Complaints ..... 767111  
Telephone Information  
(Director's assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 002381  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623108  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 699110  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53200

# HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann ..... 644216  
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Ann ..... 644212  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 636140  
Majlis, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Pakistani, Shamsan ..... 6641714  
Shamsan Hospital ..... 699131  
University Hospital ..... 848485  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 6612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164  
Italian, Al-Muhajireen ..... 771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511726  
Army, Marka ..... 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 664155  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09983322  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)983322  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)989990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27275  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)347100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

# FOR THE TRAVELLER

## QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen Alia In-  
ternational Airport Tel. (08)5320-  
5, where it should always be ver-  
ified.

# ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights  
(Terminal 1)  
04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:50 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:30 ..... London, Frankfurt (RJ)





**PREMIER'S VISIT** — Prime Minister Shari'at Ben Shaker Monday visited the Interior Ministry where he chaired a meeting reviewing the ministry's draft laws and regulations which were presented by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad. The meeting reviewed a number of matters related to the Interior Ministry's activities and plans concerning services to various regions of the country. Attending the meeting were the ministers of education, information and culture and the directors general of the General Intelligence Department, the Public Security Department and a number of government officials. The draft laws will be submitted to the Cabinet and later transferred to Parliament for debate and approval.

## Australian parliamentarians laud ties with Jordan

**CANBERRA (Petra)** — Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives in Australia Monday lauded the strong and progressive ties between Jordan and Australia, especially in parliamentary and economic fields.

The Australian parliamentarians, who were speaking during a visit to the House of Representatives by a Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Al Masri, voiced Australia's backing for the Middle East peace efforts and their appreciation of his Majesty King Hussein's role to achieve peace and the conclusion of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

They also emphasised the need to further bolster Australian-Jordanian parliamentary cooperation and the exchange of expertise, and said Australia was quite ready to provide any possible assistance to Jordan in all fields.

The Australian officials said they were impressed by Jordan's fast development and economic endeavours and expressed hope that Jordan and Australia will increase the volume of exchange goods.

They said that the Australian foreign trade minister is scheduled to pay a visit to Jordan in the coming few days in order to discuss ways for such increases.

In reply, Mr. Masri noted that his team's visit marked the first Jordanian parliamentary visit to Australia, expressing hope that it will mark the beginning of strong cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Mr. Masri, who conveyed a message from the speakers of the Senate and the Lower House of Parliament in Jordan, extended an invitation to the Australian spokesman to visit Jordan and examine the Jordanian democratic process.

The Jordanian parliamentarians attended part of the Australian parliament meetings in Canberra.

## Israeli Knesset delegation visits Kingdom

# King Hussein reasserts Jordan's commitment to comprehensive peace

**AMMAN (Petra)** — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday said that "we will do all we can for peace in the region to be a comprehensive peace and to realise a better future for the coming generations."

King Hussein in a speech delivered upon receiving a delegation representing the Israeli Knesset at the Hashemiyeh Palace, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials, added that "we hope peace between our two countries and peoples will be an example for others in our region to follow."

His Majesty expressed hope that the time will come when the region will be a region of peace and cooperation, and that the forces of peace will overcome those of darkness.

Following is the full text of His Majesty's speech:

Ladies and Gentlemen ... honourable guests

"It is a pleasure for me, my brother the Crown Prince, prime minister, the speaker of Parliament, and the Senate and all my colleagues here to welcome you on this evening ... we have indeed covered a long distance within a very short space of time but if things are to be explained, they can only be explained by the fact that, I believe, both sides rose up to the level of responsibility not only towards ourselves but towards our peoples and their future and towards generations to come."

"We are very happy with what we have achieved and

we are hopeful that we will achieve more in what I regard as a period of consolidation before us, and, hopefully, peace between our two countries and peoples would be an example for others in our region as we seek together to provide the future of security, based on peace, mutual respect and cooperation in an atmosphere which generations to come can work together and fulfil the dreams and aspirations and achieve what is their right. Nothing in the world would equal the feeling, that I am sure all of us share, that we will be leaving behind us something worthwhile, something worthy of our efforts and endeavours."

"I believe that it is so very important for us in the times ahead to establish more and more face-to-face contacts between us on all levels and I am sure that we will find, once this is achieved, that our objectives, hopes and aspirations are one and the same. It will pave the way for our building together the kind of future that is worthy of our people. You are most welcome as honoured representatives of the people and the State of Israel here in Jordan this evening and I hope that we will have the pleasure in the future of welcoming many of you again from time to time."

"I am very happy that this meeting has taken place and I hope that the subjects and topics that were discussed ... I believe they are fundamental for our joint effort

to succeed in the period of consolidation which is ahead of us. We indeed hope and pray that peace between us is going to be part of a comprehensive peace in the region, and we will do what we can to make it so. None of us, if we look into our hearts and into our souls through our beliefs, can deny that what compels us to resolve our problems and work together is far more than what divided us. The children of Abraham and their followers, the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, we as Muslims, cannot look at ourselves and deny the common origin and that there is much that unites us."

"Let us hope that we will succeed in all our endeavours and we will do all we can for a better future for all the generations to come in this region, and maybe this part of the world will once again inspire people everywhere in our world."

"I thank you very very much indeed for being with us and I promise you that we will do all we can to continue (the work) for (real peace) and we count on you to do the same. And this is yet one more opportunity for us to be together at this level, and hopefully we will see a continuation of contacts, on all levels, so that the mythical barriers can disappear in time if they still exist and people can see the human face of each other as we build together a better future for this region."

"I thank you very very much and you are most welcome and let us hope that

there will come a time soon when this entire region will be a region of peace, harmony, cooperation, where human beings will live in peace and in security and where the battle is one where the forces of peace will (win) over those of darkness who wish us to be denied this opportunity and chance to fulfil our duties."

"Al Salam" is one of the names of God; let him bless our efforts, and give us success in all our endeavours. Thank you very much indeed and God bless you."

Following is the text of the Israeli parliament speaker Shevach Weiss's speech:

"Our distinguished hosts, His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Prime Minister, the president of the Jordanian Senate, the speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, members of the Jordanian government, my colleagues from Israel, deputy speaker, chairman of the parliamentary branches, honourable guests."

"I have with me a prepared speech to address, but after a small talk from heart to heart around these tables, with your permission, Your Majesty, I will change my speech and I will express my feelings after the speech. First of all, thank you so much for this invitation. We are here as representatives of the Israeli democracy."

"We are here delegates of all parties and all powers of our nation. We are here as representatives of all our ethnic groups: Jews, Arabs,

Druze.

"We are here because we are ... to the continuing of this historic, important peace process."

"The peace treaty with Jordan is supported by the majority of Israeli citizens, and the majority of the Israeli population, and the historic majority of our parliamentary groups and members of our parliament."

"I am sure we have the power and we have the obligation to change the historic ... the history in the last five generations. We are (obliged) to change, and we have a window of historic opportunities ... after achieving this peace with your nation and country."

"I would like to express our admiration to you and your family's courage, to your wisdom, to your very effective and fruitful process of decision, and I hope that this peace treaty between our two states will become an example for all states in this region."

"Your Majesty, I would like to extend the invitation of the president of the State of Israel, Ezer Weizman, the prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, to you and your family and your government to come to Israel to visit us with your delegation as soon as possible. And with your permission, I would like to add one sentence in your language, 'Kul am wa antum bi khair'."

"We are here as a united Israeli parliamentary delegation and we are here united and (obliged) to continue the peace process."

"Thank you very much."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Ra'd to attend ophthalmologists' talks

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben-Zaid will be the main speaker at the third international conference of the Arab ophthalmologists which will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, between April 10 and 14, 1995. Prince Ra'd, who is chairman of the Friends of the Eye Bank and Prevention of Blindness Society, received the invitation Monday from the conference's council Secretary General Akel Al Mugharbi to participate in the conference to which around 1,300 ophthalmologists will take part.

### Envoys present credentials

**LUXEMBOURG (Petra)** — Jordan's Ambassador to Belgium Khaled Madadha has presented his credentials to the prince of Luxembourg as non-resident ambassador to Luxembourg. Mr. Madadha conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and Jordan's desire to enhance bilateral relations in all fields. The prince expressed deep appreciation to the King for his peace efforts and congratulated Jordan on concluding the peace treaty with Israel. Husam Abu Ghazaleh, Jordan's ambassador to Austria, Monday presented his credentials to the president of Slovakia as Jordan's non-resident ambassador there. He expressed Jordan's desire to expand economic and trade relations with Slovakia. The president asked that the ambassador convey greetings to King Hussein and the Jordanian people.

### RJ to fly to Barcelona

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Ahmad Jweiber, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) returned to Amman from Spain Monday and announced he concluded a deal whereby Royal Jordan (RJ) will operate flights to Barcelona, in addition to Madrid, the capital of Spain. He said that the agreement was reached in talks with Spanish Civil Aviation authorities. The two sides have also agreed to amend the present bilateral agreement in a manner that would cater to the requirements of security, in accordance with regulations set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

### Lawyers announce candidates

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Five Jordanian lawyers have announced their candidature for the Bar Association presidency and 28 others for the board membership prior to the Bar's elections which are scheduled for March 10. A total of 2,700 Jordanian lawyers are eligible to take part in the elections.

### Fuel distributors referred to courts

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Meteorology and Specification Corporation (MSC) has referred a number of fuel distributors to the competent courts for trial, after finding them guilty of tampering with the metres and measurements. The corporation has withdrawn their permits and prevented them from distributing fuel until sentences are passed by the courts concerned. The MSC has recently discovered that 14 fuel tankers and two fuel stations and gas distributors were violating the meteorology and specification law, by tampering with metres and measures, thus affecting the quantity of fuel sold to citizens.

### 14,000 tonnes of sugar arrive in Aqaba

**AQABA (Petra)** — A vessel laden with 14,000 tonnes of sugar destined for the Ministry of Supply has now docked in Aqaba harbour, according to the Ministry of Supply. It said in a statement that the sugar, which is being unloaded in the ministry's warehouses in Aqaba, will be moved to Amman and other cities later on to meet the sugar shortages in the local markets.

## Police searching for hit and run driver

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Ramtha and Irbid police Monday continued their search for a trailer driver whose vehicle witnesses said, Sunday noon struck and killed a 10-year-old boy in Tourah area in Ramtha.

Witnesses told police that the victim, Salem Adnan, was playing in the street, when he was struck by the trailer whose driver fled the scene.

A police official told the Jordan Times Monday that the authorities have a "fairly good description" of the suspect.

"Bystanders where the accident occurred gave us a good description of the vehicle, and we have placed patrol units in different areas to find the suspect," the police official said.

The victim was rushed to the Ramtha government hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

Traffic officials attributed the accident to wrongful overtaking by Yousef A. Moreover, slippery roads on Sunday caused a public bus to lose control and slide off the road injuring 21 people, police reports indicated.

The report however did not indicate the time or place of the accident.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### FILM

★ Polish film entitled "Between Cap and Lip" (with subtitles in English) at the Goethe-Institut at 7:30 p.m.

### PLAY

★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Firefighter" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy.

★ Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.

★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.

## More rain, snowfall expected

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Department of Meteorology Tuesday forecast rainy conditions in Jordan for Tuesday and Wednesday as a result of a low depression centred over Cyprus.

A department official said that the depression will be accompanied by cold fronts affecting the eastern Mediterranean region and bringing in rain that will affect all parts of the country.

Department Acting Director Amin Qaraeen said Tuesday will also witness some snowfall on the high regions in the country.

He said that in Aqaba, scattered rains are expected with strong to moderate winds. The official warned that low-lying regions could be flooded by rain water and that there will be poor visibility due to fog formation.

He said that the temperatures will drop to four degrees at night rising to only seven degrees during the day.

Meanwhile, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), announced Monday that the reservoirs behind the Kingdom's dams have accumulated 82,620,000 cubic metres of rain water.

The JVA said that the King Talal Dam, the largest in the Kingdom, contains more than 63.5 million cubic metres of water out of an 80 million-cubic metres capacity.

He added that Wadi Shueb and Kafraim dams were full to capacity, containing 2.43 million and 2.5 million cubic metres respectively.

## Nigerian official expresses his country's desire to expand trade with Jordan

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The charge d'affaires at the Nigerian embassy in Baghdad had a meeting in Amman Monday with Khalidoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, and expressed his country's desire to expand its trade with Jordan.

The Nigerian official said his country would like to conclude a trade agreement with Jordan in order to stimulate trade between the two countries.

He also extended an invitation to Mr. Abu Hassan to visit Nigeria at the head of a

## Jordan, Syria sign protocol for joint trade council

**DAMASCUS (J.T.)** — The Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) and the Syrian Federation of Chambers of Commerce Monday signed in Damascus a protocol on the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Syrian business council designed to encourage trade between the two countries.

The protocol provides for measures needed to overcome obstacles impeding trade exchanges, increasing reciprocal visits to Jordan and Syria by the private sectors, encouraging the launching of joint economic ventures, and joint investments and conducting training courses for cadres, needed to bolster ties.

The protocol also entails facilities for Syrian and Jordanian travellers to Amman and Damascus and the flow of national products across the common borders.

JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa, who signed the protocol with Rabea Shallah, chairman of the Syrian Federation, said that the brotherly relations between Jordan and Syria help them boost their trade and build a solid base for economic coordination and cooperation.

Mr. Tabbaa pointed out that while Jordan last year sold JD 25 million worth of products to Syria, it imported JD 45 million worth of Syrian goods.

He said that this volume of trade exchange accounts for

little compared to the two countries' foreign trade with other countries.

Noting that Jordan and Syria were among the foremost countries to sign the pan-Arab deal for an Arab common market, Mr. Tabbaa said that credit should go to the higher Joint Jordanian Syrian Committee which serves as an umbrella for bilateral cooperation in trade and other fields.

In view of the circumstances which prevail in the region, said Mr. Tabbaa, it is imperative on the two countries to pool their efforts and confront economic competition with a joint stand so as to protect the two countries' trade, economic, industrial and services fields.

He said that this volume of trade exchange accounts for

## Jordan to attend meeting on investment in tourism

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Federation of Jordanian Businessmen and Commerce and its affiliated institutions in Jordan will take part in a general conference on investments in tourism and hotel sectors in the Arab World due to open in Damascus in March.

Haidar Murad, Federation chairman, said that Jordan's participation underlines the importance it attaches to the development of tourism.

Mr. Murad made the announcement following his meeting here last week with Dr. Othman Al Ajdi, chairman of the Arab Federation of Tourism and Hotel, when they discussed topics related to promoting tourism in the Arab World.

Dr. Ajdi outlined the general tourism situation in

the Arab countries and the prospects for investments by the private sector organisations and companies.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) announced Sunday that in cooperation with the Arab Economists Society of Jerusalem it will organise the first conference by Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen in Amman in June.

A JBA statement said that in light of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreements concluded in Amman last month which focused mainly on trade, economy and investment fields, the two business communities on the two banks of the River Jordan have decided to hold this first conference in the first week of June to give a chance to

the business people on both sides study prospects for joint investments and coordinate their stands and their policies vis-a-vis the outside world.

The two sides will present working papers on economic, industrial and investment development during the coming meetings, said the statement.

A whole range of topics, including tourism, transport, trade, agriculture, industry, contracting and construction, insurance, banking and financial affairs will be addressed in the coming meeting, said the statement.

It said that the conference is also expected to come up with a proper mechanism for cooperation and coordination in various fields between the private sectors, on a constant basis.

## Damascus declaration

(Continued from page 1)

The eight adopted in full the policy towards Iraq already pursued by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

They said Iraq recognising Kuwait last year was an important step in the right direction but Baghdad must comply with all U.N. resolutions, release Kuwaiti prisoners and give back all Kuwaiti property.

In a surprise move Syria, a close ally of Iran, joined the Gulf countries in urging Tehran to put an end to its occupation of three islands in the Gulf, which are claimed by the UAE.



## Burma rebels set up headquarters; Thais begin return of refugees

BANGKOK (AFP) — Ethnic Karen rebels, routed from their mountain headquarters last month, said Monday they had returned to Burma to continue fighting, while Thai border units began repatriating refugees to areas they said were now safe.

In a seven-page statement, the Karen National Union (KNU) said its military leader, General Bo Mya, had set up a temporary headquarters in "Karen-held territory elsewhere inside Burma."

He and other senior KNU officials would continue to battle Rangoon's attempts to "bulldoze the KNU into submission," it said.

As the rebels prepared a fresh start for their war for autonomy, Thailand began repatriating the first some 10,000 Karen refugees who fled fighting last month between troops of the Rangoon junta and ethnic insurgents.

A total of 1,273 Karen were sent across the border to Burma Sunday from Kanabur province, 155 kilometres west of here, an official with the Thai Ninth Infantry Division said. Another 911 were to be sent

back Monday, he said.

Those refugees had reportedly fled fighting and enforced labour around the rebel Karen outpost of Kawmawlaw in Tavoy-Mergui. The official told AFP Monday that fighting in the area had stopped.

Some 7,000 to 8,000 other Karen who fled battles in eastern Burma remained huddled at half a dozen camps along the Thai-Burmese border further north, according to Karen relief sources.

"They are afraid that they will be sent back now," a KNU refugee official said recently. "They know what (the Thai Interior Ministry) has said."

Last week, Thai Interior Minister Sanan Kachornprasart was reported as saying he would repatriate all Karen refugees immediately because they were fleeing a military action, not political persecution.

But contrary statements by other senior Thai officials have left policy at the border ambiguous.

"I think the Thai army is waiting to see who will set the

policy," Naing Aung, chairman of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), said recently. "This has been confusing for them, too."

Early Monday, Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai flew to the northern border district of Mae Sariang where authorities were coordinating relief efforts, Thai Radio reported.

The premier did not speak with reporters, but the trip underscored the increasing tension along the Moei River, where government troops have been seen marching northward.

Just a few kilometres east of Mae Sariang, a Thai border police officer was shot and critically wounded Sunday when his patrol tried to disarm three men with rifles at Mae San Laep border town, a Thai border officer said Monday.

The unidentified men fired on four Thai officers, then fled to a boat and crossed to Burma, the official with BBP's Unit 337 told AFP. The wounded officer was in intensive care in Mae Sariang Monday, he said.

The KNU has asked Chuan and other Thai officials to acknowledge "the need of the KNU and other (Burmese) opposition organisations to have access to the international community through Thailand and to be able to make their political voice heard."

Thousands of ethnic Karen spilled across the border late last month, when the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the official name of the Rangoon junta, began a concentrated campaign to end Karen rebel resistance in Burma.

The junta, breaking its own unilaterally declared ceasefire with the rebels, took the KNU and opposition headquarters of Manerplaw on Jan. 27. The SLORC launched artillery and ground attacks on several other positions simultaneously.

The move has drawn criticism from the United States and caused some Thai officials, among them Foreign Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, to question the effectiveness of Thailand's economic policy of "constructive engagement" with the Rangoon regime.



Russian Astronaut Vladimir Titov points to the Russian space station Mir during their scheduled eight-day mission in space (AFP photo)

## Russian space agency to NASA: No leaks allowed near Mir station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The message from the Russian Space Agency to NASA is clear: Your leaking space shuttle cannot come near our Mir.

With time running out, NASA ordered shuttle astronauts to try to repressurize a leaking jet in a long-shot effort to stop the drainage and permit a close encounter Monday with Russia's orbiting Mir space station.

The thruster was still leaking a trail of icy fuel when the crew awoke early Monday, about 1100 kilometres and 13 hours before the scheduled meeting.

Russian officials insist that, unless the steering jet stops spewing fuel, the shuttle discovery must stay at least 122 metres from Mir — 111 metres further than planned. They fear the small chunks of

frozen capsule attached to the station and needed by the three Mir cosmonauts to return to Earth next month.

Mission operations director Randy Stone said National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineers believe the leaking nitrogen tetroxide would not attach to anything and poses no danger.

But the Russians aren't convinced, "and it's their call," he said.

"They don't fully understand all of the capabilities of our vehicle. It's mostly just the very methodical and conservative engineering approach that they take to things when they don't have a full knowledge of the system," he said.

The original plan called for Discovery and its crew of six to fly within 10 metres of the station as a dress rehearsal

for the first shuttle-Mir docking in June. NASA wanted to see how well the shuttle handled next to a 100-tonne station and test navigation and communication systems.

"Obviously, the closer we can get the better it will be," said Discovery pilot Ellison S. Collins. "But even if we only go to 300 metres... we will still be getting a lot of good information."

Months before the mission, the U.S. and Russian space agencies agreed that discovery would forgo the close encounter if any one of seven critical steering thrusters failed.

Seven Atlantis-Mir dockings are planned through 1997. After that, NASA plans to start building an international space station with Russia and other countries.

## Big earthquake rattles N. Zealand

WELLINGTON (AFP) — An earthquake measuring a potentially devastating seven on the Richter Scale occurred off the coast of New Zealand Monday but miraculously caused no damage.

The effects of the quake were minimised by the epicentre's location in the Pacific Ocean about 125 kilometres (77 miles) south-east of East Cape, according to Martin Reyners, deputy chief seismologist at the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.

Nevertheless, he said, "it was a decent-sized shake and felt from Auckland to Christchurch," he said.

The tremor occurred about 11:50 a.m. (2250 GMT), but aftershocks were still being felt 4-12 hours after the first jolt, and although shorter and less powerful, were still unnerving for some residents.

At the east coast township of Tolaga Bay, one of the closest points to the epicentre, motel owner Wally Tukukino said there had been five aftershocks in that period.

He said the initial quake seemed to last about 45 seconds and felt like a rolling movement. Some of the aftershocks had lasted as long as 15 seconds.

Ministry of Civil Defence duty officer Tom Finnimore said there had been reports of objects falling from shelves in Tolaga Bay.

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## 9 years after 'people power,' Filipino political clans back with a vengeance

MANILA (AP) — Nine years after the "people power" revolution promised a new era in Philippine politics, political clans and establishment politicians are back with a vengeance in advance of May's national elections.

Last Friday was the deadline for candidates to file for 12 senatorial seats to be filled May 8. The list of serious contenders includes four children or grandchildren of former presidents, including Rep. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Voters will also choose governors, mayors and House of Representatives members, although their filing deadline is March 20. Those expected to seek lesser office include movie stars, comedians and even Imelda Marcos, free on bond after graft conviction which could land her 24 years in jail.

This is far removed from the expectations raised in the February 1986 "people power"

uprising, which toppled the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and swept Corason Aquino into the presidency. Political rhetoric at the time was rich with references to a "new era" in politics and to breaking the grip of influential clans on national life. That clearly did not happen.

In an effort to strengthen his influence in the Senate, President Fidel Ramos forged an alliance between his Lakas (Strength) and the opposition Laban (Fight) to produce a joint senatorial ticket.

The list reads like a "Who's Who" of Philippine politics for the last half century. Among the 12 candidates are Sen. Gloria Arroyo, whose father Diosdado Macapagal served as president from 1961 until 1965. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., whose president-father was killed in

a plane crash in 1957, is also running, along with Sergio Osmeña III, whose grandfather-namesake served as president of the Philippine Commonwealth from 1944 until 1946.

Marcos Jr., is running under the standard of the opposition National Peoples Coalition and is given a good chance of winning, despite widespread opposition to his father's authoritarian rule.

Mr. Ramos' ticket also includes Ramon Mitra, whom he defeated in the 1992 presidential election. Rep. Juan Ponce Enrile, fired as defence minister in 1986 after a failed coup against Mrs. Aquino, and three candidates soundly defeated for vice president in the last election: Magsaysay Jr., Marcelo Fernan and Aquilino Pimentel.

Mr. Ramos put together the coalition to solidify his grip on congress in the last three years of his term.

## Walesa asks parliament to dissolve

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — President Lech Walesa, who has begun the process to dissolve parliament in order to call new elections and oust the left-dominated government, asked the legislators Monday to dissolve their own body or he would do it for them.

"I appeal to you, please step down, because history will not forgive us," Mr. Walesa told a meeting of caucus leaders and speakers of both chambers of parliament. "If you don't do that, then I will take the decision."

The meeting had been called to resolve a deadlock between the three centres of power. The president, the government of Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and parliament.

Parliament passed a resolution Saturday, saying Mr. Walesa had no grounds to dissolve it and threatening to take him before the state tribunal, a special court that determines whether politicians are acting within the constitution.

Mr. Walesa, repeating accusations of corruption among government and parliament members, made his appeal to the legislative leaders after a brief meeting with Mr. Pawlak at the presidential palace.

Mr. Pawlak, criticised by members of his own coalition for not consulting with them, said Saturday he was ready to share power and responsibility with Aleksander Kwasniewski, head of the former Communists, the Democratic Left Alliance.

Mr. Kwasniewski is expected to be Mr. Walesa's main rival in the November presidential elections. Mr. Walesa had commented Saturday that he would not oppose formation of a government headed by Mr. Kwasniewski, who would be "more efficient" than Mr. Pawlak, but "not to the liking" of many people.

Mr. Walesa did not explain why he wouldn't object to a Kwasniewski government.

Still, a hard core of Di fans remains loyal, including some still sporting her haircut.

"She's a good mother and she's got a great figure — that's how all women yearn to be," said Kazne Nishimura, 55, an admirer since her daughter was studying in Britain and sent her a book of photographs of the princess.

"It's great that she's doing this kind of work and not letting herself be beaten down. I wish her well."

Inside the hospital the princess told an audience she admired the courage and optimism of people in Kobe where more than 5,000 people died in an earthquake three weeks ago.

"In the midst of this most terrible devastation, it was wonderful to see neighbours come to the help of those who needed it and to witness the strong sense of community in the rescues," she said in a speech that started with greetings in Japanese.

The 17 seats of Mr. Pujol's

## Doug McClure, western actor, dies at 59

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Doug McClure, the blond, boyish cowboy star of the television shows The Virginian, The Overland Trail and The Men From Shiloh, died of cancer Sunday night. He was 59.

McClure died at his home in the Los Angeles suburb of Sherman Oaks with family and friends by his side, said McClure's friend, Dennis Morga.

After struggling a year with lung cancer, McClure appeared last Dec. 16 for the installation of his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Getting the star helped him feel better, he told well-wishers.

"It gave me the incentive to get well, and I well," he declared.

But on Jan. 8, the actor collapsed from an apparent stroke on the set of a theatrical film in Hawaii and was flown to Los Angeles for hospitalisation.

Doctors discovered the cancer had spread to his liver and bones, Morga said.

"Doug was one of the kindest people I have ever

known, and a real gentleman," said Morga, who recently produced several marketing videos that McClure appeared in and directed. "He was a true professional — always prepared on the set and easy and fun to work with. I'll miss him very much."

McClure's career took off in 1960 when he was cast as William Bendis' sidekick in the NBC series The Overland Trail. The show lasted only a half-season, and he immediately started on Checkmate, a private-eye series.

In 1962, the actor joined the cast of The Virginian, an ambitious, big-budget NBC project which was the first filmed series with 90-minute episodes. McClure played the role of Trampas, the villain in the Owen Wister novel and the three movie versions.

Trampas was rehabilitated in the series as a happy-go-lucky young cowboy.

McClure fit easily into the Western atmosphere. He had been riding horseback since the age of 8 in his hometown of Glendale, California. As a teenager he spent summers

on a cattle ranch and was a bronco-buster in occasional rodeos.

After eight successful years of The Virginian, NBC introduced a spinoff, The Men From Shiloh. It lasted one season.

"I had this feeling everybody thought I was dead," he said in a 1988 interview. "I didn't quit. I did some films and theatre in London. I went to New York. But I had been on television so much, people thought I wasn't around."

McClure returned to TV series in 1975 for the one-season Western Barbary Coast. He continued making guest appearances on TV, notably in the 1977 classic Roots. His other film credits include Cannonball Run II, 52 Pickup, Omega Syndrome, Dark Before Dawn, Tapeheads.

In addition to his wife, Diane, McClure is survived by two children from previous marriages, Tane and Valerie McClure; his mother, Clara Clapp, and a brother, Reed.

## U.S. actor to film in Sarajevo

BELGRADE (R) — U.S. actor Harvey Keitel, star of the hit films Pulp Fiction and The Piano will shoot scenes for a new movie in besieged Sarajevo next month. The Gaze Of Odysseus is the story of a director, played by Keitel, who goes to the Bosnian capital to search for an old Balkan film. "It's not a political film although Sarajevo is part of the narrative," Keitel told Reuters Monday. "It's the story of a soul's journey to redeem a self." It will be the first time a commercial film has been shot in Sarajevo since the siege by Bosnian Serbs began nearly three years ago. Keitel was in Belgrade for its International Film Festival. He was presented with a special Golden Locomotive Award.

## Campbell 'regrets' posing naked for Madonna book

LONDON (AFP) — British supermodel Naomi Campbell has expressed "regrets" for posing naked in the pages of "Sex," pop star Madonna's book of steamy photographs. "My mum and grandma were embarrassed," she told the latest edition of the magazine Esquire — for whom she also agreed to a photo shoot — adding: "I'm learning from my mistakes."

## Alligator captured in Cologne

COLOGNE, Germany (AFP) — Police captured an alligator measuring almost a metre (over three feet) in length near a main road in this western city. The reptile, identified as a caiman, was taken to Cologne Zoo in an armoured car, police said. Its owner was not identified. Police speculated that it could have been cast out of the Rhine, which flows through the city, during historically high floods last week.

## 'Racist' Bugs Bunny video withdrawn

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — The MGM-UA film company has agreed to withdraw from sale a video containing a Bugs Bunny cartoon made during World War II which expresses racist attitudes towards the Japanese. The video, a compilation representing a history of animation, contains a cartoon entitled Bugs Nips The Nips which portrays the cartoon hero offering booty-trapped, ice cream cones to a group of Japanese people. As the encourages them to accept, he speaks to them using such terms as "bowlegs," "monkey-face" and "slant-eyes." Around 8,000 copies of the video compilation have been sold since it went on sale in September 1983. The company decided to withdraw the video after receiving complaints from the Japanese-Americans Citizens' League.

## Charles to be patron of U.N. celebrations

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles will be the British patron of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, the organisation said. The United Nations Association said the heir to the throne will preside over several events including the 50th anniversary of the first U.N. General Assembly on Jan. 11, 1996. "We are truly delighted that Prince Charles has agreed to act as our patron," said Lord Howe, president of the British committee for the commemoration. "With his deep commitment to fostering international understanding he will play a key role in ensuring that this important anniversary receives the recognition which it deserves."

## 5-year-old brings handgun to school

WASHINGTON (R) — Police took into custody a five-year-old boy in Maryland after he took a loaded semi-automatic handgun to his elementary school and showed it off to his classmates, police said Saturday. A teacher at the school in Prince George's County, outside Washington D.C., confiscated the .380 calibre weapon Friday after she saw the boy showing it to a group of other students in the back of a classroom, a police spokesman said.

## Diana starts Japan visit quietly

TOKYO (R) — Britain's Princess Diana, demure again in her trademark hair-cut, began a return to full royal duties here Monday and received the blessing of a child who thought she was Cinderella.

Leaving behind in Britain for the moment alleged scandals in her personal life and looking ahead to a new independent royal role, the princess rarely let a smile slip from her face from the moment she arrived at Tokyo Airport.

The four-day visit on behalf of the Red Cross has been tailored to show off the caring side of a princess known for a jet-set life of glamour but a private life of woe.

After a new book detailed suicide bids, problems with the eating disorder bulimia and the breakup of her marriage to the heir to the British throne Prince Charles, Princess Diana withdrew from public life a year ago.

The Japan visit is part of her comeback.

For her first engagement, a visit to a children's hospital in a Tokyo suburb, she dressed for the part in a pale pink suit and string of pearls.

She replaced a Madonna-like sleek haircut she wore with New York's fashion world with last week with the familiar "princess di" cut.

At the hospital, Erina Sarumi Sakaguchi, a six-year-old girl suffering from muscular atrophy, gave the princess a card with a picture of a rabbit and a message that she was pleased to meet the princess.

"I told her a princess was coming and she thinks Diana is Cinderella," said her mother Sachiko.

The princess visited a cancer ward where the terminally ill children dress in pink and have pink bed clothes and decorations to cheer them up. In another ward children had prepared a banner saying "welcome to SC, Princess Diana", writing her name in the Japanese pronunciation.

The last time Princess Diana came to Japan was with Prince Charles to attend Emperor Akihito's enthronement in 1990.

She was rapturously re-



Britain's Princess of Wales poses two children on the head as she talks with Hospital President Professor Kobayashi during a visit to the National Children's Hospital in Tokyo. Earlier the princess had flown into the Japanese capital to start a four-day visit, and a lunch and tour of some wards was her first official engagement (AFP photo)

ceived them as a symbol of European glamour and elegance.

This time the trip is far more low-key.

She is forging a new public role as patron of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the British Red Cross and as a member of the advisory commission of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Though she will meet the imperial family, there are no other high-profile social events planned.

Many Japanese, though still fond of her, find it awkward to deal with her in a country where broken marriages are still frowned upon and unheard of in the imperial family.

About 150 well-wishers turned out to greet her at the hospital, far fewer and quieter than the mobs that followed her on her previous visits in 1986 and 1990.



# World News

## U.S. actor in Sarajevo

BELGRADE (AP) — Actor Harvey Keitel, who played the hit film *Pulp Fiction*, is in Sarajevo for a new movie, *Gaze Or Odessa*. Keitel, who goes to Sarajevo to shoot a political film, says Sarajevo is part of his soul's journey to himself. "It will be a commercial film, shot in Sarajevo, nearly three years after the siege by Bosnian Serbs," he says. The film was presented with Golden Locones.

## Campbell 'regrets' posing naked

LONDON (AP) — Supermodel Naomi Campbell has expressed "regret" over posing naked in a 1994 issue of *Vogue*. Campbell, 27, said she was "embarrassed" and "regretted" the decision. She said she was "not a feminist" and "not a lesbian."

## Alligator cap in Cologne

COLOGNE, GERMANY (AP) — Police are looking for a man who stole a cap made of alligator skin from a store in Cologne. The cap was worth about \$1,000. The man was seen running away from the store.

## Racist Buge Bunny video withdrawn

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A video cassette titled "Buge Bunny" has been withdrawn from shelves after complaints of racist content. The video, which was sold in a store in Los Angeles, contained racist slurs and images. The store owner said he was unaware of the content.

## Charles to be patron of U.N. celebrations

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles will be the patron of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The prince will be the patron of the celebrations, which will be held in London. The prince will be the patron of the celebrations, which will be held in London.

## 5-year-old brings handgun to school

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 5-year-old boy brought a handgun to school. The boy, who is 5 years old, brought a handgun to school. The boy, who is 5 years old, brought a handgun to school.



Shortly after returning to their hometown Ochten, inhabitants of the Dutch village walk the top of the sandbag-covered dyke to see the current situation. The whole population of the village had to be evacuated last week due to the dangerously high water level (AFP photo)

## Last Dutch flood evacuees go home

AMSTERDAM (Agencies) — The last Dutch flood evacuees headed home Monday after a mass return over the weekend as authorities declared the majority of dikes around the downstream Maas and Waal Rivers safe. "The situation is more or less back to normal," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "The remaining people are being allowed home this morning and the rest of the livestock are going back from Tuesday." Swollen rivers forced 250,000 people to evacuate their homes last week in the Netherlands' worst natural disaster in 40 years. But swiftly receding water levels allowed the last 14,000 people, from the villages of Gorinchem Oost and Boven Hardinxveld in the west of the evacuated region, to return home Monday. On Sunday 180,000 people in and around the towns of Tiel and Culemborg were greeted by signs improvised by police saying "welcome home." Thousands of people had already returned to their homes on Friday and Saturday.



Inhabitants of the village of Appeltern in the Land of Maas and Waal gather their furniture which was put into storage in the local church during the flood threat. Some 170,000 people forced to flee the worst flooding in the Netherlands this century began calmly returning to their home (AFP photo)

Water officials said most of the main rivers and canals would reopen to shipping late Monday. Dutch waterways are a key artery through northwest Europe, linking the giant ports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam with the continent's industrial heartland. They had been closed since Jan. 29 to try to prevent damage to the country's ancient dikes. Many of those returning home expressed gratitude to the army and emergency services which toiled all last week to shore up weakened dikes and guard homes against looting. As northern Europe cleaned up after last week's torrential floods, much of southern Europe continued to parch in a persistent and expensive drought. Since 1990, rain clouds have virtually ignored the southern stretches of Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece on the northern edge of the Mediterranean as well as Israel and North Africa. In Spain, as crops wilt and large tracts of land fall victim to increasing desertification, two years of government heel-dragging have left the country without a national water plan.

Parliament said that before it looked at the national water plan we should have an irrigation plan. Then it called for another plan on the water basins, said Public Works Minister Jose Borell. "You get the impression they're not interested in our sending them the water plan." In southern Spain reservoirs are only 10 per cent full, more than 2 million people face daily water restrictions and corn, rice, cotton, olive, and sugar beet harvests are once again under threat. Roman Catholic bishops and priests have taken to the streets to lead processions imploring divine intervention. But so far to little avail, as organisers of the World Alpine Skiing Championships in the Sierra Nevada found last month when, despite local prayers, the competition was postponed until next year because of an unprecedented snow shortage. "Year after year it is just getting worse," said Antonio Alcaraz, president of the Guadiana River Hydrographic Confederation. Crop and livestock farmers put losses at more than \$4.6 billion for the past year alone, while the government has invested some 40 billion pesetas (\$300 million) in emergency reservoir construction and river diversion measures since 1992. Authorities also fear catastrophic consequences for tourism, Spain's leading industry. Major resorts like Marbella already face up to 16 hours of water restrictions, while some residents of nearby Fuengirola have resorted to filling buckets at public fountains. Growing concern over the drought has begun to raise fundamental questions over how water is used — or misused — in Spain. With proposals to build 156 new dams and dozens more river-diversion canals, the National Water Plan planned to distribute water from the rain-sufficient north to the arid south. But so far the plan — which pits ministries, engineers, farmers and ecologists against each other — has been unable to earn parliament's approval.

## Karachi remains tense after weekend of violence

KARACHI (Agencies) — Angry youths burned tyres in the streets and set a bus on fire Monday following a weekend of sectarian violence that left 33 dead and dozens injured. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said she believed "a foreign hand" was behind the killings, a reference to archrival India. However, she offered no evidence. Police and paramilitary troops in armoured vehicles patrolled the Liaquatabad district in central Karachi, where both Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims have come under attack. Police described the area as tense and said young men set up burning tyre barricades and torched one public bus Monday morning. But no new shootings were reported. Twenty-one people were killed in two drive-by shootings Sunday at Sunni Muslim gatherings. On Saturday night, 12 men were gunned down, most of them Shi'ites, in similar attacks. Karachi, an increasingly lawless city of 10 million people, has been plagued by political and sectarian violence, and the weekend killings marked one of the worst outbreaks in recent years. The shootings also raised questions about whether Ms. Bhutto's government has lost control of Karachi, the country's business capital. "No one is prepared to invest in Karachi with the continuing violence," said S.M. Munir, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "The absence of fresh investment has made the unemployment problem worse." More than 800 people died in political and religious violence last year, but there were few arrests and even fewer convictions. Many see the government as weak and ineffectual in dealing with the violence. "The main question at the moment is the survival of the country," said Jamil Yousuf, a prominent businessman who has set up a citizen's group to help police deal with crime and violence. Ms. Bhutto withdrew the army from Karachi in November and said the police force was capable of maintaining order. However, more than 200 people were killed in political and religious violence in December and January. Muslim religious leaders Monday accused India of being responsible for a new wave of violence in Karachi, saying the unrest was directly linked to the troubled Indian-held territory of Kashmir. Veteran religious and political leader, Shah Ahmad Noorani, said he suspected that India had been behind attacks this weekend. He said the New Delhi was "punishing" Pakistan for expressing support for Kashmiri militants fighting against Indian rule. In the worst bloodletting in recent months, snipers struck twice in Karachi Sunday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 35 others. The shooting coincided with a nationwide strike called by Ms. Bhutto to "express solidarity" with Muslim militants fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir. Officials said terrorists fired indiscriminately at a camp set up by Kashmiri activists in a densely populated area of the city to collect donations for their separatist struggle. The attack left 11 people dead, witnesses said. Unidentified armed men also pumped bullets into a Sunni mosque, leaving nine people dead.

## 'Toyboy' John Major claims denied by brother

LONDON (R) — John Major's brother denied Monday that the British prime minister had once been the "toyboy" lover of a sophisticated divorcee who is 13 years older. Mr. Major's elder brother Terry said reports that the future premier had an affair with Jean Kierans when he was 20 years old were "absolutely ridiculous" and the couple had just been good friends. The claims appeared in the men's magazine *Esquire* and were splashed across Britain's racy tabloid newspapers. *Esquire* said Ms. Kierans, now a grey-haired 65-year-old pensioner, moved next door to Mr. Major's family with her two children in 1963 and began a romance with the future premier which lasted several years despite the disapproval of his family. Ms. Kierans, a school-teacher and active member of the Conservative Party, encouraged Mr. Major — who dropped out of school at 16 — to begin working in a bank and become a party activist, *Esquire* said. The magazine said Mr. Major's mother was furious when she caught Ms. Kierans rummaging in their house for John's washing and insisted on chaperoning the couple when they went on holiday to Spain. Mr. Major's sister Pat was quoted as saying of Ms. Kierans: "She was after him... he was young and she was wily." The tabloids, which have failed to find anything remotely scandalous in Mr. Major's past and often portray him as a lacklustre figure, were hugely intrigued by the magazine report. But Mr. Major's brother Terry painted a very different picture of the relationship with Ms. Kierans. "I think she might have been something to do with the Tories (Conservatives). It is absolutely ridiculous to say she and John were lovers," he told the Evening Standard newspaper. "I think she may have helped him with his work because she was a teacher. She certainly encouraged him but everybody encouraged John to get on." In his autobiography, Terry paints a genteel picture of the Majors as the epitome of middle-class respectability. Life in the Major family, ensconced in the southern suburbs of London, appears to have been lily-white in its blamelessness. The Majors were typical of most Britons, doing their best to make a decent life amid the privations of post-war London. A night out consisted of a visit to the cinema, holding hands with your date and taking the last bus home. A young man fell in love only once in his life, and married that woman. After working in his brother's business making garden gnomes, John became a local councillor in the late 1960s. He was elected as a Conservative member of parliament in 1979. John, who met and married his wife Norma in the early 1970s, issued writs for libel in 1993 when two magazines reprinted rumours that he had had an extramarital affair with a caterer. Both he and the woman won damages and apologies.

## Fujimori vows to enforce Rio Protocol with diplomacy, arms

LIMA (AP) — President Alberto Fujimori has vowed to enforce his country's claim to a disputed border area following the apparent breakdown of talks aimed at reaching a ceasefire with Ecuador. Mr. Fujimori said Sunday that his troops were closing in on an Ecuadorian post and would "remove all the invaders" if diplomacy did not work. Earlier in the day, talks in Brazil ended without agreement on a truce. Meanwhile, Ecuadorian President Sixto Duran-Ballen headed for Brazil, Argentina and Chile to present his nation's case personally. Ecuador and Peru both said fighting took place Sunday at the headwaters of the Cenepa River, where the two countries have been battling on and off for 11 days — the latest conflict in a dispute that dates from 1941. Mr. Fujimori, who visited the border region Sunday, said 22 Peruvian soldiers had been killed in fighting — twice the number previously given by Peru. Ecuador says eight of its soldiers have died and two are missing and presumed dead since fighting erupted Jan. 26. Mr. Fujimori stressed his country's claim to the area, citing its interpretation of the border under the 1942 Rio De Janeiro Protocol, which was supposed to set the boundary between Peru and Ecuador following their 1941 war. "We are going to enforce the Rio De Janeiro Protocol, which is an international treaty that has to be respected, respected through diplomatic means by arms," he said. Peru contends the entire 1,000-mile (1,600 kilometres) border was established by the treaty after Ecuador lost the war. But Ecuador declared the agreement null in 1960, before the border was fully marked. In dispute is an unmarked 50-mile (80 kilometres) stretch through rugged, jungle-covered mountains called the Cordillera Del Condor, on the eastern edge of the Andes. The area may contain gold, uranium and oil. Each side blames the other for the latest fighting. Delegates from Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States ended five days of ceasefire talks in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, saying Ecuador had asked for more time to study the proposals. "I prefer not to think of the talks as a failure but rather as a preparation for more complete understanding and what we all hope will be a ceasefire and a permanent peace," said Sebastiao De Rego Barros, Brazil's acting foreign minister and chairman of the talks. Sources in Rio said Peru had wanted a demilitarised zone nearly 5 miles (8 kilometres) wide, while Ecuador wanted a half-mile zone. Ecuador also wanted to keep its military posts in the disputed area. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity. Both Peru and Ecuador accepted an observer mission, the mediators said. As the talks broke up, Ecuador claimed Peruvian jungle troops attacked four more of its posts in the disputed stretch of dense jungle, and accused Peru of using guerrilla warfare. Mr. Fujimori said his forces had "taken the hills that overlook the outpost" of Tihunza and were closing in. Ecuadorian officials said they had repelled an attack on the same base, which each side claims is in its territory. They also claimed Peru was using artillery helicopters to attack other posts. Meanwhile Chile denied Sunday it was arming Ecuador in its border flare-up with Peru but acknowledged having authorised a weapons sale to Ecuador as recently as last September. Responding to a Peruvian newspaper report, the Chilean government issued a statement denying it had authorised arms shipments to either side in the deadly Amazon border conflict broke out in January. The last time Chile authorised an arms sale to either side was on Sept. 12 when the government approved the export of war material to Ecuador, said the statement issued by President Eduardo Frei's office. It did not say when the weapons were delivered to Ecuador, or who actually sold them. "The delivery of this material has been carried out in line with the usual international practices in this type of commercial operation, and its details are confidential," said the statement. The Lima newspaper *La Republica* reported Saturday Ecuadorian Air Force cargo planes flew to a Chilean military base in the northern city of Iquique last week and picked up 75 tonnes of weapons.



Representatives of the guarantor countries of the 1942 Peru-Ecuador peace treaty give a press conference at the Itamaraty Palace in Rio De Janeiro. The representatives are Juan Jose Urquiza of Argentina (left), Sebastiao De Rego Barros (2nd-left) of Brazil, Fabio Vio (2nd-right) of Chile and Alexander Watson of the U.S. (AFP photo)

## Dole to consider Powell as running mate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Senate majority leader Bob Dole said Sunday he would consider inviting Colin Powell, the retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to be his vice presidential running mate for the 1996 elections. The Kansas Republican said on the NBC Television programme Meet The Press that he would formally announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination in early April. He said his formal declaration would come 50 years to the week after World War II wounds crippled his right arm and hand. Beside Gen. Powell, Sen. Dole said his short list included former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp as well as governors Pete Wilson of California, Christine Whitman of New Jersey, William Weld of Massachusetts, Jim Edgar of Illinois, George Voinovich of Ohio and Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin. Sen. Dole said he "had a good visit" with Gen. Powell two or three weeks ago, adding: "We didn't talk about this specific thing." He added that some of those on his list may be weighing their own bids to unseat President Bill Clinton. Sen. Dole said his experience as "someone who has been tested in a lot of ways" qualifies him to be president of the United States. Sen. Dole has been a staunch advocate of lifting the arms embargo to enable Bosnia to defend itself against Serb fighters but the Balkan war did not come up during a television interview. He sought to identify himself with the ideas of Mr. Kemp, the conservative Republican who says his party needs to reach out more to minorities. As an aspirant for the Republican 1996 presidential nomination, Sen. Dole joins Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, who is already actively campaigning, and other prospects including former Vice President Dan Quayle and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander. Mr. Kemp recently abandoned presidential aspirations. Dole said people would turn to him at the polls if they are "looking for someone with experience, someone who has been tested in a lot of ways and somebody who gets up every morning and knows that people are going to have difficulties." If he were elected, he said, his wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, would want to continue in public service but as a "more traditional first lady" than Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has drawn criticism for involvement in policy-making. Now president of the American Red Cross, Mrs. Dole has been secretary of labour and of transportation.

## Sarajevo Airport road opened for Serbs

SARAJEVO (R) — The first civilian traffic for seven months crossed Sarajevo Airport Monday under a ceasefire which is helping the Bosnian capital inch towards normality after almost three years of war. Twenty-two Serb cars drove from Ilidza to Lukavica, two Serb suburbs flanking the U.N. controlled airport, peacekeepers said. A second airport road linking mainly Muslim sectors of the city was due to open later in the day and a queue of cars built up in anticipation of the barriers being lifted. "It's a promising step forward," U.N. spokesman Gary Coward said. If there are no hitches, U.N. peacekeepers will intensify efforts to persuade the Serbs to let commercial traffic use the roads which are currently restricted to U.N. and humanitarian freight. The move would significantly ease shortages in Sarajevo which relies on U.N. convoys and an international airlift through Sarajevo Airport to feed itself. Opening the road from Ilidza to Lukavica meant the Serbs could make a journey in 30 minutes which has previously taken all day during the siege of the city. Sarajevo Police Chief Enes Bezdor told Reuters the Serbs also agreed to let civilian buses run between Sarajevo and Visoko, northwest of the city, from Tuesday. The current ceasefire, built on personal mediation by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter took effect at new year and is due to last four months while a political settlement is sought. Despite the progress in Sarajevo, General Rasim Delic, the commander of government forces, warned fighting would resume if the ceasefire collapsed. Gen. Delic told Sarajevo Radio Sunday his Bosnian Serb foes would be mistaken if they thought his soldiers had become soft since the truce took effect. "We are taking measures for further improvement and strengthening of the army with one goal, which is if there is no solution in these four months, now three months of the ceasefire, then the army will make one on the battlefield." The truce has halted fighting across most of Bosnia except the northwestern Bihać pocket where government forces are pitted against rebel Muslims backed by Serbs. Meanwhile the French ambassador to Croatia said in an interview published Monday that Zagreb's decision to eject U.N. peacekeeping troops could ignite a wider war in former Yugoslavia. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman ordered 12,000 U.N. troops guarding a ceasefire with rebel minority Serbs holding a third of Croatia to leave by June 30. He said the U.N. presence only allowed the Serbs to cement a breakaway state. Mr. Tudjman's move has prompted menacing noises from the Krajina Serbs and their patron, Serbian-led rump Yugoslavia. Western officials fear a U.N. exit will unleash another Serbo-Croatian war that would send shock waves across the Balkans. French Ambassador Jean-Jacques Gaillard was quoted by the Zagreb daily Vjesnik as saying Croatia had every right to conduct its sovereign affairs as it saw fit but the decision to expel the U.N. was fraught with risk. "We fear that after UNPROFOR (U.N. Peacekeeping Force) leaves, incidents may become more frequent and could at any moment turn into a larger conflict," Mr. Gaillard said in the interview. "Europe will do everything to prevent a new war which would risk setting fire to the whole region (of former Yugoslavia)," he said, alluding to concern that Bosnia's Serb-Muslim ceasefire would be jeopardised. "We will do it by putting maximum pressure on parties to start negotiating as soon as possible, to speed up the implementation of the economic agreement, to teach people on both sides to live together again. "If, unfortunately, war breaks out again, it will be a big defeat for Europe," Mr. Gaillard said. Croatia and the Krajina Serbs have started implementing a trade and communications accord meant to solidify a March 1994 ceasefire, a cross-country highway and an oil pipeline slicing through rebel terrain have been reopened. But the Krajina Serbs have resisted embarking on a third stage of normalisation talks on political reintegration within Croatia. They refused last week to look at an international peace plan granting them limited autonomy. Mr. Tudjman says the Krajina Serbs have clung to their goal of total independence only because they have been shielded from attack by U.N. peacekeepers inserted between the combatants. Croatian authorities deny any intention of launching a new war, convinced — despite Western doubts — the Krajina Serbs will negotiate on limited self-rule once UNPROFOR departs. Foreign Minister Mate Granic plans to visit Yugoslavia this month — Feb. 20, diplomats say — to press for a public Serbian commitment to diplomatic recognition of Croatia. This would erase the Krajina Serbs' claim to statehood and smooth the way to a settlement based on internal autonomy offered by Zagreb to Croatia's largest ethnic minority. "The EU has no reason to doubt the wish for peace expressed by Croatian leaders," Mr. Gaillard said. But Western diplomats say Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic still shows no inclination to recognise Croatia's ultimate authority over breakaway Serb-populated regions.



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Hand for rusty league

THE FORTHCOMING visit of the Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Meguid to Jordan would certainly provide an ample opportunity to raise with him several key issues on how to render his organisation more effective and efficient. As is, the Cairo-based league is anything but fruitful or cost-effective. Created in the mid-forties to deal with a set of existing Arab problems, it remained nearly static in its procedure and basic rules. In the process, the vision of the league also remained anachronistic against the backdrop of contemporary Arab conflicts and disputes. As for its goal to realise full Arab coordination and the streamlining of Arab aspirations, the league proved time and again impotent and unresponsive to the new challenges. There is hardly an Arab capital that does not share the view that the league is long overdue for a major overhaul in terms of its Charter or its methodology of work. Uppermost on the mind of Jordan is also the creation of an Arab Court of Justice to settle inter-Arab disputes, a proposal to which much talk has been devoted without any real prospect for real action in that direction. We cannot agree more on the urgent need to institutionalise the Arab ways of resolving their quarrels, which happen to be so many, and there is no better way than the establishment of an inter-Arab tribunal for this purpose. In the same vein, we think the Arab World also needs an Arab human rights commission or court along the lines of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission or the European Human Rights Court. Of course, all such basically good proposals cannot be expected to see the light of day given the lack of political will on the part of the major Arab countries to put their ultimate trust in a regional Arab institution. From the look of things, the Arab countries are no where near yielding some of their sovereignty rights to an Arab regional organisation just as the Europeans and Latin American countries have done already. This problem should not, however, prevent us from pursuing our objectives even though we know that they cannot be attained in the near future.

In all cases, springing the league back to life requires first and foremost the amendment of its Charter, as Jordan has insisted for a long time, so that decisions can be taken by a majority vote instead of the archaic unanimity or consensus rule currently being applied for the adoption of the league's resolutions. As long as Arab policy decisions cannot be taken in a democratic way, there can be no hope to introduce the necessary changes that all the Arabs agree should be made. We think that the government should prepare a thoroughly articulated file on this subject, containing all necessary ideas and proposals, so that the visit of Mr. Meguid to the country next month could turn out to be positive instead of just ceremonial.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday welcomed the news about reported Saudi forces withdrawal from the Yemeni borders. The withdrawal was vital for restoring peace between the two neighbours and necessary for averting a conflict that would only deal a serious blow to Arab solidarity, said the paper. Indeed, the Arab states are in need to address the damage that was caused to the Arab Nation as a result of the Gulf crisis, which harmed the interests of Arab people, said the daily. By avoiding a new tragedy and opting for reason and brotherly dialogue, the leaderships in Sana'a and Riyadh have displayed wisdom that will benefit the Arab World at large, said the daily. Lauding the current efforts to secure a permanent solution to the border dispute, the paper said that there can be no winners in conflicts between two Arab states and only through peaceful dialogue can all Arab problems be resolved and tragedies averted.

AL DUSTOUR daily said the Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian meeting in Cairo to discuss coordination of policies with regard to the Palestine refugees question was significant not only because the issue at hand is vital for the aspired peace, but also because it was the first coordination meeting since the Oslo agreement of 1993. Regretting that so much precious time has been lost before the three countries came together to discuss the refugee problem, the paper said that the meeting was necessary before the foreign ministers of the three countries meet with the Israeli foreign minister later this month. Since Israel holds different views regarding the refugees problem from those of the Arab countries, the Arab side can better negotiate with the Israelis through a joint stand and concerted effort, continued the paper. The meeting manifested the Arab sides' concern over the fate of the refugees.

The View from Fourth Circle

Onion rings, paper crowns and the meaning of fences

I FOUND it intriguing yesterday to read in the local newspapers several separate news items that seemed to deal with very different issues, but that, in fact, reflected a common dynamic. The items were about an Israeli parliamentary team visiting Amman for talks with Jordanian officials, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown visiting the region to promote greater U.S.-Middle East business contacts, our minister of social development stressing the need to focus more on tackling poverty in Jordan, our information minister stating that all aspects of our state-owned local media are being reviewed, and the aftermath of the financial collapse in Mexico that generated a \$50 billion international rescue package.

The common denominator among these different stories, in my view, is the raising of the following fundamental questions: Will the post-peace Middle East open itself to Western commercial forces to such an extent that our region will primarily become an appendage to the U.S.-dominated global marketplace of popular culture and consumer commodities? Or, rather, will we have the fortitude to work for the combination of political democratisation, intellectual honesty and greater socio-economic equity that present themselves as a viable antidote to the commercial-cultural bazaar that increasingly beckons us from the West?

This struck me as a rather urgent question a few weeks ago when I was in the Gulf region visiting a small Arab country that prided itself on maintaining the cultural identity of its people, especially their native dress. Only medical doctors, nurses, commercial aircraft pilots and armed forces personnel, as far as I could see on many previous visits to this country, wore Western-style uniforms during working hours. In January 1995, however, the lines of cultural identity had been breached suddenly and dramatically: Scores of native young Arabs working in Burger King restaurants had discarded their traditional clothes and were wearing blazing red Burger King uniforms, complete with little paper crowns.

Much as I enjoy Burger King food (double whoppers with cheese and a small portion of onion rings are my favourite, and, after baseball, they form the point of optimum convergence between my Arab nationalist political sentiments and my firm commitment to constructive, mutually satisfying cultural interaction with the West), I was still shocked by the symbolism of what I had seen: an ancient, strong Arab culture had discarded perhaps its most powerful day-to-day symbol of its identity — its clothes — for the sake of conforming to the profit dictates of American-style fast food outlets. What was next to come? Would little girls dress up as extra large portions of French fries and prance across our television screens? Who amongst us would be the next to drop our own, old ways, to don the outfits created and loved by the impersonal money markets of the West, and eternally to dance for dollars?

This is only one example, perhaps a weak one, of the single most important danger that I see confronting most Arab societies, including ours in Jordan: the danger that in our haste to prod economic expansion and avert the spectre of large-scale poverty and its attendant political tensions, we are gravitating with perhaps undue haste towards the poles of Western, specially American-dominated cultural commercialism and market economics. This runs the

double risk of aggravating the cultural alienation that is already a big problem in most Arab countries, while promoting economic growth that is of questionable durability and equity.

We seek foreign investments and business interaction with Israelis as important elements in our economic well-being and salvation. It seems to me that we over-emphasise the importance of foreign investments (perhaps because we value the political vote of confidence that comes along with foreign money?). The rush to offer ourselves to foreign parties as an attractive investment and business partner should be preceded by a far more diligent effort to correct those distortions that plague us at home.

**"The impact of further economic liberalisation and open foreign investments on the Jordanian poor, without an effective domestic policy that targets poverty alleviation as a top priority, is likely to be negative and immense, given the experience of many others around the world."**

This brings up the issue of the quality of our state-owned information media which the new information minister — a learned man of letters — has rightly said needs reassessment. The great unknown, however, is in which direction our media will move, given that the state-owned Jordanian television service is already in the process of disseminating CNN, BBC, and assorted foreign music and entertainment channels. I find it odd that our national television service should be facilitating access to alternatives to its own output, instead of improving Jordan Television to the point where it can credibly compete for its own domestic audience.

Why does this strangeness happen in an otherwise intelligent, impressive country like Jordan? The answer, I believe, lies in the imbalanced interaction between the forces of our identity and the attractions of the Western consumer bazaar. No doubt, it's a lot more fun for young Jordanians to watch a rock and roll band or an NBA slam dunk contest than to sit through an interview with an agriculture ministry extension agent in a distant Jordanian province recounting his office's services to farmers. It may

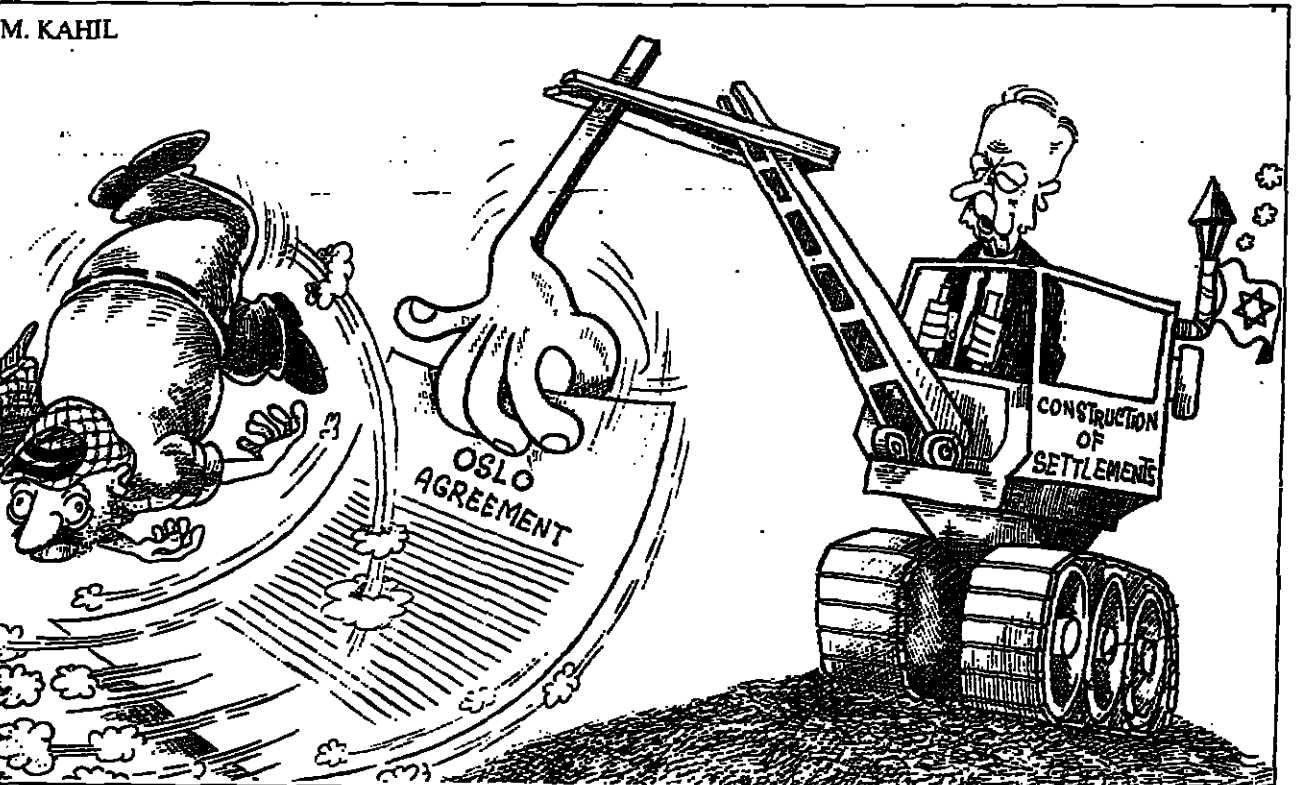
also be more profitable or simply easier for those who dominate the local commercial power structure to act as salesmen and commission agents for Western entertainment media, than to make the effort required to bring Jordanian output up to Western standards of technical excellence and intellectual credibility.

My fear is that continued Westernisation of our commercial marketplace, without unlocking the forces of creativity and hard work that are within us, will merely perpetuate the trends that have brought us to the point today where we have to run after foreign assistance and investment in order to expect a better future. The Mexico experience looms large in this respect; it should make us cautious about embracing foreign investments as the main cure to our economic weaknesses. The cost that Mexicans have paid for their foreign investments, in terms of poverty and helplessness, are enormous. They will now be compounded by the effective desovereignisation of Mexican oil, which will be in the hands of Mexico's international creditors as collateral for the \$50 billion rescue package. Poverty rises, the currency collapses, and sovereignty dissipates ever so slightly in Mexico today.

The impact of further economic liberalisation and open foreign investments on the Jordanian poor, without an effective domestic policy that targets poverty alleviation as a top priority, is likely to be negative and immense, given the experience of many others around the world. More to the latest, most important lesson for us, given that the international lending agencies during the past decade have trumpeted Mexico as an example of our own official adjustment. If I am not mistaken, some of our own officials were mentioning the Mexican precedent a few years ago in perhaps applicable to Jordan, in terms of debt rescheduling. It is rather troubling, but not coincidental, to note today that the two places in the world where people speak seriously of erecting fences to separate communities are along the Mexican-U.S. border and along the Palestine-Israeli border — at the moment when we in Jordan view the U.S. and Israel as important business investment partners in the immediate future. We need to ponder the meaning of such fences, and why it is that we seek to be warmed by the economic fires of the fence-builders of our planet.

This suggests to me that we should value caution and prudence, and forebode haste. Economic liberalisation, foreign investment and cooperation with Israel are all goals that I support and that I have spoken for over many years. These goals remain valid, but they are not sacred; in order to be constructive for Jordanians in an equitable and sustainable manner, they should be approached in a manner that draws far more on the ideas, sentiments and concerns of ordinary Jordanians.

The interplay between healthy economic growth and greater political participation is widely confirmed through studies and experiences in all parts of the world. We would appear odd if we thought that we in Jordan were somehow exempt from the laws of nature and the cumulative experience of humankind — perhaps not quite as odd as an Arab child wearing a Burger King crown and dancing for dollars, but pretty close. Hey, Charlie, I'll have one Double Whopper with cheese and a small order of onion rings, an extra portion of sovereignty on the side, and please hold the servitude.



Rabin government unwilling to pay the price for peace

Only the U.S. can stop settlement activity

By Michael Jansen

THE RECENT decision by the Israeli cabinet committee on settlements to permit the immediate completion of 800 housing units for settlers at the Maale Adumim colony east of Jerusalem and of another 1,000 units over the next two years demonstrated in no uncertain terms that the Rabin government was not prepared to pay the price in land for peace with the Palestinians. And it showed that this committee, which includes two notable "doves," Shulamit Aloni and Amnon Rubinstein (who apparently took a seat slanted for Shimon Peres), is no more in a position to impose control than the Minister of Housing. Be-

nyamin Ben Eliesar, criticised for permitting building to go on without restriction.

Indeed, the very fact that Mrs. Aloni and Professor Rubinstein serve on this committee and have agreed to this decision demonstrates that they and the entire "peace lobby" in Israel has been swamped by the instant public opinion gains the right-wing made from the bomb explosion at Natanya. Both Meretz ministers have been highly critical of settlement expansion and made the point that, in principle, their party opposed settlement activity. Clearly, principles have gone out of the window. Indeed, their presence on the committee gives it a credibility and legitimacy that it would not have if they were not represented.

Recently "freedom of settlement," like the Israeli army, has become sacrosanct; perhaps even a majority of Israelis now support the rightist contention that "Jews must be free to settle anywhere in the land of Israel," the portion of Palestine captured in 1967 as well as the Israeli "protector" of 1948.

Although this was a slogan raised by the Likud and

its right-wing allies more than a decade ago — a slogan unpopular with a majority of Israelis who were antagonistic to the settlers because they were subsidised at the expense of the Israeli taxpayer — it has been taken up by the Labour and Meretz parties because they now find themselves in the pre-campaign period for the 1996 election.

The committee's decision would seem to contradict the statement made recently by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Maale Adumim, Betar, the Etzion Bloc and Giv'at Ze'ev should not be considered a part of the "Greater Jerusalem" area. By giving into settlers' demands for continued construction in Maale Adumim, the committee has signified that these blocs have been placed in the same category as the areas in and around East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel as part of its "eternal," undivided and unshared capital in 1967.

Furthermore, the government is expected to include at least these settlements within the proposed security fence, or fences, designed to "separate" Jews and Palestinians. Their inclusion would create a thick

belt of fenced territory and round Jerusalem, sealing it off from the Palestinian population of the occupied West Bank and Gaza and preventing Arab East Jerusalem from ever becoming the capital of a Palestinian state.

Although the Palestine National Authority has protested these Israeli activities, there is little the Palestinians can do to stop the Israelis from going ahead. Only the U.S., as Israel's paymaster at the rate of \$6.37 billion a year, would be in a position to compel Mr. Rabin to exercise some restraint. However, according to an informed interpretation of the pledge Mr. Rabin made in 1992 to Washington (the Bush administration), Israel is permitted to expand without restraint its holdings within the Israeli-defined and administered "borders" of "Greater Jerusalem" and in the Jordan Valley. Furthermore, there are no obstacles to an annual "natural growth" of 1-2,000 units in the rest of the West Bank, nor the Israeli expropriations for "security purposes," particularly of "state lands" which account for about 60 per cent of the West Bank and 40 per cent of Gaza.

Franco-Algerian ties in crisis

By Paul Taylor  
Reuter

PARIS — Relations between Algeria and France, its former colonial power, have been plunged into crisis over President Francois Mitterrand's suggestion of a European-sponsored peace conference for the North African state.

Algeria's military rulers, waging a brutal war against Muslim fundamentalist insurgents, recalled their ambassador from Paris on Saturday and summoned the French envoy, while the official Algerian media lambasted Mr. Mitterrand for "interference."

State radio accused Mr. Mitterrand, who was interior minister in 1950s French governments that tried to eradicate Algerian nationalism, of "visceral hatred of independent Algeria."

President Liamine Zerroual's policy "will be the rock on which Mitterrand's attempt will be smashed," the radio said.

The invective compounded a crisis of confidence between Paris and Algiers opened by the Christmas eve hijacking of an Air France plane by Islamic gunmen at Algiers airport that left bitter feelings on both sides.

The French, convinced Algerian leaders were lying to them, threatened a cut off financial aid to force them to let the plane fly to Marseille, where French commandos stormed it and freed the hostages.

France then suspended air and sea passenger services to Algiers until security was improved.

Officials said Mr. Mitterrand, who retires in May, overstepped government policy when he voiced "a hope, not yet a policy" that the European Union (EU) could hold a conference based partly on a platform for a ceasefire and democratic elections adopted by Algeria's secular and Islamic opposition parties last month.

The French foreign ministry took the unusual step of saying it had no comment whatsoever on Mr. Mitterrand's suggestion, and an official called it "not a plan, a speech."

Foreign Minister Alain

Juppe and Defence Minister Francois Leotard had previously expressed support for the dialogue among the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), the Socialist Forces Front (SFF) and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was on the verge of victory when the army intervened to scrap a 1992 general election.

There are several theories why Mr. Mitterrand, who discussed the conference idea on Thursday with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, aired it publicly in the presence of European Commission President Jacques Santer and French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur on Friday.

Firstly, the French are determined to use their six-month EU presidency to raise Europe's diplomatic profile.

It was the second French initiative in a week after Mr. Juppe proposed a new international conference on former Yugoslavia. And the activist foreign minister is off to the Middle East this week to seek a peace-making role there for Europe.

Secondly, Mr. Mitterrand may calculate that the mere threat of European involvement, possible linking a dialogue in some way to the continuation of financial aid, may be sufficient to press Algeria's rulers into opening their own peace negotiations.

Thirdly, the Socialist Mitterrand may have been tempted to exploit differences over Algeria in the conservative government with which he shares power.

Mr. Balladur, front-runner to succeed Mr. Mitterrand, has struggled to reconcile hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua's support for the Algerian generals and rejection of any compromise with the FIS with Mr. Juppe's advocacy of a hands-off policy encouraging the Algerians to settle their civil strife through dialogue.

The prime minister now faces the awkward choice of whether to back Mr. Mitterrand's idea or try to ignore it.

**Featu**  
Censorship no longer easy to spot  
By Ed McCullough  
The Associated Press  
CARACAS, Venezuela — Censorship in Latin America used to be easy to spot. Military regimes of the 1960s, 70s and early 1980s simply took over the press, down newspapers, and broadcast stations they considered offensive. Some censored to maintain coverage. In the worst cases, reporters were slain. Their killers were rarely brought to justice.  
With the emergence of democratic governments in the region, media freedom leaped forward. Last year, newspapers are more vigorously investigating government officials for corruption and other wrongdoing. The best-known cases led to the impeachments of presidents Fernando Collor de Melo in Brazil and Carlos Andres Perez in Venezuela.  
Government interference, however, has not disappeared. Censorship — at least the threat of it — is just more subtle.  
In Venezuela, congress passed a law in December that requires reporters to join the national reporter's guild or face jail. Under the press law, reporters must also have a university degree.  
Lawmakers in Colombia recently approved legislation ordering T.V. stations to give prominent time to opposing points of view on face heavy fines.  
Congressmen pushed for the law because they said T.V. stations were making unsubstantiated allegations. Lawmakers were being accused of corruption and bribery, but no proof was presented.  
President Carlos Menem of Argentina has endorsed slander legislation pending in the senate that carries steep penalties. He said the law is needed to protect the good name of people unjustly accused of crimes.  
Publishers claim the real aim is to suffocate investigative reporting that in recent years has included accusations of corruption against members of the government. Mr. Menem's family and his Peronist Party.  
Despite the opposition of news groups, many reporters endorse or see no harm in laws requiring them to have university degrees and belong to a guild. They say it is useful to improve the status of journalists, who tend to be poorly paid and trained.  
Some newspapers in Caracas pay reporters the equivalent of a few hundred dollars a month. "That's why so many are so young and why those with any experience leave" for jobs in other fields, said Gregorio Salazar, president of the National Union of Press Workers.  
Editors, writers and academics disagree.  
"In the United States of France, you don't have to be a journalism graduate or history to a guild to work," said Arturo Usler Piestri. "In Venezuela, it's a restriction and a big one... They created a 'closed shop'."  
Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia have similar laws. Censorship can take subtle forms.  
In Mexico last November, the pro-government union that has a legal monopoly on sidewalk sales of newspapers boycotted Reforma, hampering its distribution.  
The ostensible issue was whether the paper could go to press on a legal holiday. Journalists suggested the real issue was Reforma's independent editorial voice.  
President Alberto Fujimori of Peru boasts that the press is free in his country. But critics say public advertising is parceled out mostly to pro-government media.  
More ominously, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists says 13 Peruvian reporters are in jail for alleged violating an anti-terrorist law. Reporters were slain last year in Mexico, Brazil and Colombia.  
Still, many people feel progress towards freedom of the press.



# Features

## Censorship no longer easy to spot

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The Associated Press

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"In the United States or France, you don't have to be a journalism graduate or belong to a guild to work," historian Arturo Uslar Pietri said. "In Venezuela, it's a restriction and a big one.... They created a 'closed shop'."

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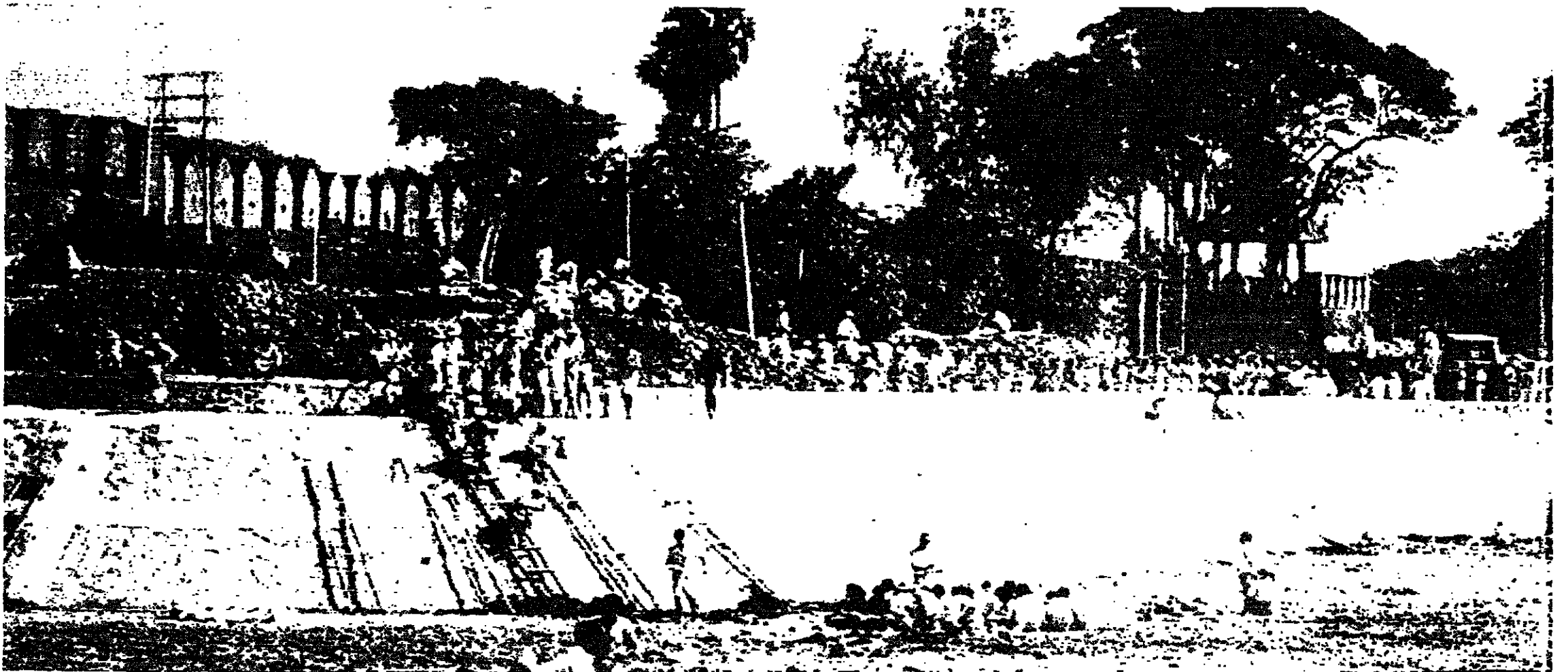
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Still, many people feel there has been marked progress towards freedom of the press.



Prisoners and press-ganged villagers working in slave conditions in Mandalay

## In bondage on the road to Mandalay

Vivien Morgan reports on the  
Burmese governments use of slave  
labour to prepare for a tourist bonanza

UNDER THE midday sun a small group of Burmese labourers by the roadside, cleaning gutters and rebuilding embankments. To tourists on their way to the Sagaing pagoda in minibuses with tinted windows, they do not merit a second glance. But these men are working at gunpoint. A soldier stands guard over them.

This is the reality of life in Burma for hundreds and thousands of people — forced into unpaid work, to polish and prettify the country for a tourist boom in 1996, designated the Year Myanmar, as Burma styles itself.

Starved of international funding since the economic embargo by the World Bank and others, in response to the 1988 military takeover by the State Law and Order Res-

toration Council, the government seeks to lure foreign-currency spenders, in the form of tourists.

But the infrastructure is run-down; the roads unsuitable for tourist coaches, the railways slow and unreliable — you can wait at Rangoon for two days before the train leaves for Mandalay — and the archaeological sites and beauty spots, not up to accommodating mass tourism.

So the generals have turned the country into one huge slave labour camp. The rich can buy their way or pay for someone else to do the work. For the rest, there is no escape.

One of the largest projects is the fort at Mandalay — the fabled city of Kings. The red fort and its pagodas, the

gilded royal barge moored in the moat, Mandalay Hill, with its sacred temples and steep path of 1,200 steps leading to Nirvana — all evoke the past grandeur of what is now called the Golden Land.

Today, the fort and moat swarm with hundreds of prisoners and villagers, repairing walls and dredging mud. They are watched by armed soldiers, unpaid and fed only by a midday meal of rice.

In scenes reminiscent of a biblical Hollywood epic, they labour from dawn to dusk. The prisoners no longer wear leg-irons (though they still do in parts of the country off the tourist map). They are marched to a nearby barracks at night. Villagers squat in makeshift camps by the fort.

Every month a village must deliver a certain number of men and women to work for two weeks. As one man said: "When the order comes, we have to go. If we don't, the police come the next day and

you're fined. If you can't pay the fine you can go to jail for about two months."

More than half a million people are being press-ganged into work on the Y-Tavoy railway — dubbed the "Second Death Railway" because conditions resemble those on the line across the River Kwai built by World War II prisoners.

This project's toll in human suffering is appalling. Hundreds of villages are torched to clear the area, those living there sent packing. Witness

accounts from those, like one woman who escaped to the Thai border camps, provide the details. "There were thousands of us working on the railway. They even take pregnant women. I saw women raped and beaten. One gave birth to her baby, but both she and the baby died and we had to take away the bodies — I couldn't stand it anymore, so I fled."

At Pagan, 300-km from Mandalay, the picture is the same.

The heart of Pagan, the old village, was recently demolished. Deemed an eyesore to tourists, and too close to the main temples, the inhabitants were moved to wasteland 3 kilometres away.

These same villagers are forced to work at archaeological site restorations for no

wages. Pagan, renowned for its Buddhist pagodas, was designated by UNESCO as an area of historic importance. While international agencies pour in money for restoration, workers' wages are being withheld — and aid diverted to government coffers.

About 300,000 refugees have reached the Thai border. Living in camps on the Moei river, their numbers grow daily.

When tourists arrive in increasing numbers in the so-called Golden Land of Myanmar, the authorities hope they won't see — beyond the pagodas and serene smiling Buddhas — the real face of Burma.

The Independent

## S. Africa police in crisis over racism and protests

By David Tucker  
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's hard-pressed police service is in crisis, with white officers accused of racism being hounded from their posts and blacks marching for rapid change in their angry ranks.

The African National Congress (ANC)-led government has declared the eradication of soaring violent crime one of its top goals but low police morale and the crisis is clearly making this increasingly difficult.

In the past week policeman has battled policeman in Soweto, armed black police have held hostage a senior white officer and others have expelled a fearful white major from his station.

The nationally televised image of armed, uniformed policemen doing the shambling toy-toy march, a left-over from the anti-apartheid campaign, has

dismayed South Africans more used to their police putting down protest than taking part in it.

Douglas Gibson, safety and security spokesman for the Liberal Democratic Party echoed the thoughts of many recently.

How were people supposed to feel safe when law-enforcers were themselves breaking the law, he asked, urging new Police Commissioner George Fivaz to play urgent attention to lawlessness and indiscipline in the police.

"Swift action is needed... no one is above the law, certainly not the police," he said in a statement.

Mr. Fivaz, who says racism cannot be tolerated but neither can indiscipline, said police should not toy-toy either.

"It is not acceptable for police officers to strike as we have seen in the past week, to toy-toy in public with their weapons," Mr. Fivaz told reporters.

"The discipline and

morale problem is serious. The majority of SAPS (South African Police Service) members are disciplined but we want to see the question of morale looked at," he said.

The commissioner has promised swift change. Appointed by President Nelson Mandela to transform the police from the force of old into a service accountable to all and to shake it free from its apartheid and militaristic past, Mr. Fivaz at 49 is the country's youngest commissioner.

He does not want to be referred to by his general's rank and in a major break with the past, does not wear uniform.

A white police major told Reuters he understood the frustrations and grievances of those in the lower ranks but said what was happening was reverse racism.

"Black policemen want white policemen out of certain areas... to me that is racism. There is a big move

to change attitudes, but they are causing a lot of inter-racial pressure," said the officer, who asked not to be identified.

He said whatever public goodwill the police still had was rapidly eroding.

"There are grievance procedures, but these guys refuse to use them... I could do with a pay rise, to be paid for overtime, but you don't see me running down the street shouting political slogans with my belly hanging out of my shirt," he said.

The hardline police and prisons civil rights union (POPCRU), whose members have been involved in all the current disputes, has threatened more trouble if Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress fails to deliver on its pre-election promises.

The ANC's Communist Party allies accuse the police establishment of high-handed intransigence in dealing with the troubles and in their attitude towards grievances of ordinary police officers.

Referring to last week's Soweto mutiny in which riot police shot dead a striking policeman, the South African Communist Party (SACP) said the police au-



A POLICE FORCE IN TROUBLE: A South African policeman argues with a member of the Zulu tribe (AFP photo)

thorities had to bear full responsibility for the consequences of putting down a labour dispute with gunfire.

An independent inquiry has been opened into the incident, but the clash and the use of the mostly white

Internal Stability Division against black police strikers has given POPCRU further ammunition in its charges of racism.

Mr. Fivaz, who has scheduled a meeting with POPCRU, said the Soweto mutiny last week must nev-

er again be allowed to happen.

"It is not our task to apportion blame for this sad state of affairs but, as we have stated, the new SAPS must make a complete and decisive break with the past."

## Israeli guard killed in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

have to stick to all the details.

Negotiations were suspended after two militants set off a bomb in central Israel on Jan. 22, killing 21 Israelis. The two suicide bombers came from the Gaza Strip.

In response, Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza, barring tens of thousands of Palestinian workers from their jobs. On Sunday, Israel's cabinet lifted some restrictions, but the bulk of the labourers still cannot reach Israel.

A dozen militants of the hardline Islamic Jihad have been arrested in the last two days, Palestinian police said, taking to more than 20 the total held in a crackdown since the Netanyahu blast.

But another 15 men wanted by police went into hiding.

The latest shooting was the first Israeli death on the Strip since Nov. 19 when a soldier was shot, and raised to 66 the number of Israelis killed by

Palestinians since autonomy was launched last May.

Zvi Haendel, leader of the 4,000 Jewish settlers in Gaza, said the killing "proves that Israeli troops should be given back their freedom of action in the Gaza Strip."

Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shakaki declared the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord "effectively dead."

"What is going on inside Palestine now is a real war that will witness an escalation," Mr. Shakaki said in an interview with the Washington Post from his Damascus base.

The Netanyahu blast was the "right reply to the escalation of (Israeli) settlement building."

Negotiations between Israel and the PLO on extending Palestinian autonomy across the West Bank, which have been frozen since the Netanyahu suicide bombing, were to resume in Cairo on Tuesday.

"We are sure that Tues-

day's talks and the meeting Thursday between Arafat and Rabin will lead to nothing" on the issue of an Israeli redeployment from the West Bank, said a PLO official, asking not to be named.

The Rabin government gave up Gaza and that's all we can get at the moment. Now its aim is solely to stall to maintain the status quo until the next Israeli elections" in 1996, he charged.

The Palestinian Authority has arrested two Gaza policemen wanted by Israel for the murder of a Jewish settler, their friends said Monday. Israel demanded the extradition of cousins Rajah and Amr Abu Sita last September.

They were members of the Hawks, armed wing of the Fatah movement, when they shot dead Israeli Uri Megidish at Gan Or settlement on March 8, 1993.

The Abu Sita cousins became policemen like many of

their fellow guerrillas as autonomy was launched in Gaza and Jericho last May.

The pair, members of the Palestinian intelligence service, were arrested at their home in Khan Yunes at dawn Saturday and taken to Gaza City's central jail where they have remained, friends said.

Gaza police refused to comment on the report. Israeli police said Monday army veterans with all-terrain vehicles will start patrolling along Israel's frontier at night to keep out Palestinian infiltrators from the West Bank.

"The idea is to use a new kind of vehicle, a new method," said Shlomo Aharonishki, commander of the central police district.

The 15-member unit of volunteers began organising before Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Jan. 22.

In the wake of the Jan. 22 bombing, Mr. Rabin called for greater separation between Israel and the Palesti-

nians and appointed a committee to find more effective ways of keeping Palestinians without special work permits out of Israel.

The committee, headed by Police Minister Moshe Shalev, met for the first time Sunday and was to present a plan to Mr. Rabin within a month. Proposals heard by the committee reportedly included increasing police patrols, electronic surveillance and building fences along some stretches between Israel and the West Bank.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said the 15 volunteers would use their own recreational off-road vehicles. He said they were army veterans and received additional weapons training before being recruited. Mr. Bar-Chen said the squad had made some test runs, and would organise regular shifts within two months.

The patrol's commander, Zeev Shaltiel, 45, said he and his men hoped to "reach hiding spots where others (police) can't with regular vehicles," such as wooded areas and sandy fields.

## Mastermind pleads guilty

(Continued from page 1)

United Nations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters, the Lincoln and Holland tunnels and the George Washington Bridge. The tunnels and the bridge all connect New York City and New Jersey.

"The defendants were planning a day of terror the likes of which the world has never seen," Mr. Khuzami said.

"They planned to slaughter people as they travelled between New York and New Jersey or sat in office buildings while there were ticking time bombs underground."

The defendants also allegedly plotted to assassinate Mr. Mubarak and kidnap President Nixon and Henry Kissinger. They face life in prison if convicted.

Mr. Siddiq Ali's attorney, Jerry Tritz, had told jurors in opening statements that his client was entrapped. "Mr. Siddiq Ali did engage in conduct which all of you will find terribly offensive. ...." Mr.

Tritz said. "But at whose bidding were these terrible acts performed?"

Until Monday, the government's case against the accused plotters rested heavily on the testimony of a former Egyptian army officer who infiltrated Sheikh Abdul Rahman's inner circle and secretly taped his conversations with the defendants.

But the informant, Emad Salem, surprised prosecutors soon after arrests were made 19 months ago when he revealed he had secretly recorded his FBI handlers and had passed along information to the Egyptian government.

The government paid Mr. Salem \$1 million for his help — a figure that a prosecutor admitted in his opening statement that jurors might find to have been too high.

The indictment also accuses the defendants of involvement in the November 1990 murder of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York.



# Inter-Arab trade remains low despite incentives

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Trade among Arab countries has remained a fraction of their total commercial exchanges despite incentives offered by a regional fund created three years ago to support flagging internal trade.

Official figures obtained showed exports within the 22-member Arab League stood at around \$12.88 billion in 1993, representing nearly nine per cent of total exports, which amounted to \$142.3 billion.

Internal imports reached \$11.1 billion, accounting for

around 8.7 per cent of the total imports of nearly \$126.6 billion in 1993, according to the figures compiled by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Internal exports were even down from \$14.5 billion in 1990, despite the creation of the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) in that year.

ATFP, set up by the AMF with a capital of \$500 million, has provided more than \$250 million in credits for trade deals among Arab nations since it was established.

The figures showed demand was lagging far behind the fund's financing capacity of \$1 billion a year.

"It seems political rifts are still affecting trade among Arab countries. This is one of the main reasons for the low demand," a Gulf official said.

ATFP finances only home-produced goods, with the aim of encouraging Arab exporters and reviving the ailing economies of some Arab League members. Oil is not included.

ATF has also been involved in setting up a database linking all Arab markets

to provide information on prices and products for imports and exports.

Officials have acknowledged that the programme is not enough to tackle the problem of low inter-Arab trade.

They blame political differences, high customs tariffs, the poor infrastructure of some members and the problems of bureaucracy, communications and storage.

AMF officials said boosting trade among Arab nations was essential to achieve economic integration and ultimately a common market.

Trade has remained low even within regional groupings, despite measures to remove customs barriers and ease travel for individuals.

In the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), internal exports of \$7.3 billion in 1993 accounted for only 7.1 per cent of their total exports of around \$102 billion. Internal imports stood at only \$5.1 billion, compared with a total of around \$67 billion.

The problem also affects North Africa's Maghreb Union, which groups Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and

Mauritania.

Exports among them were estimated at \$819 million compared with total exports of nearly \$30 billion. Internal imports stood at around \$860 million compared with a total of nearly \$29 billion.

In contrast, the European Union accounted for 28.8 per cent of total Arab exports and 41.1 per cent of Arab imports.

Japan, the second commercial partner of Arab states, accounted for 16.6 per cent of their exports and 9.3 per cent of their imports, according to official figures.

## Iraq will be short of revenue even after oil embargo — experts

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq's oil revenue after the lifting of U.N. sanctions will not be enough to meet the country's minimum needs, according to a team of specialists on the Iraqi economy.

The Iraqi Consultancy Group (ICG) said oil revenue was expected to generate a net \$11.4 billion annually in the first five years, after production costs and based on output of 2.5 million barrels a day (b/d) and a price of \$15 a barrel.

But annual payments would amount to at least \$12 billion, leaving a minimum deficit of \$600 million a year.

The specialists, headed by former Iraqi industry minister Adib Al Jadir, published

the analysis in the ICB's annual report, quoted Monday by the Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey newsletter.

Out of Iraq's income, it estimated \$4 billion would go to Gulf war compensation, \$3 billion to servicing the \$60 billion foreign debt, \$3 billion on food and medicine, and \$2 billion on repairs and reconstruction.

"Hence, the projected oil revenue during the first five years of production... cannot in any way help to deal with the deteriorating economic conditions as exemplified by the runaway inflation, collapsing currency and huge unemployment," the report said.

"The Iraqi government is aware of the difficulties ahead, hence the negotiations with a score of foreign companies to raise capacity... to around 5.5 million b/d by the end of the decade," it added.

The ICB said the sanctions had been a failure.

"The sanctions policy alone, without an overall campaign to change the regime in Baghdad, is harmful to the Iraqi people and the State of Iraq as a national and political entity," it said. "It is not acceptable that this policy of mass punishment of 18 million people should be continued, and that the Iraqis should be forgotten until further notice."

## UAE boosts spending on services to face demand

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a main OPEC oil producer, is expected to spend more on services to meet rising demand due to a growth in the population and the industrial sector.

The 1995 federal budget, unveiled last week after a one-month delay, projected total allocations for services at around 6.68 billion dirhams (\$1.82 billion) compared with 6.48 billion dirhams (\$1.76 billion) last year, according to budget details from the finance and industry ministry.

The expenditure covered mainly salaries, maintenance and expansion for the education, health, water and electricity, social affairs and housing sectors.

The increase has forced the federal government to raise total 1995 spending by nearly two per cent despite a stated policy of rationalising expenditure because of a sharp decline in oil prices over the past decade.

The 1995 budget was projected at 17.94 billion dirhams (\$4.88 billion) com-

pared with 17.6 billion dirhams (\$4.79 billion).

"This year's budget will be slightly higher than the 1994 budget due to increased spending on growing services and other development needs," Minister of State for Finance and Industry Ahmad Al Tayer said last week.

A breakdown showed the education ministry was the main beneficiary, with allocations of around 2.92 billion dirhams (\$795 million) in 1995. Allocations for health stood at 1.31 billion dirhams (\$356 million) and for labour and social affairs at 672 million dirhams (\$183.1 million).

The rest benefited the public works and housing, agriculture, communication, information and culture and sports and youth.

In contrast, allocations for development projects stood at only 965 million dirhams (\$262.9 million), nearly six per cent of the total spending.

The figure covers only 54.7 million dirhams (\$14.9 million) for new projects as the rest were allocated for completing existing projects.

"Federal allocations for development projects have sharply declined over the past decade because the bulk of the infrastructure has been completed," a UAE bank manager told FP. "But outside the federal sphere, allocations for projects by some emirates are still relatively high."

Abu Dhabi is the biggest and wealthiest emirate in the UAE as it produces nearly 80 per cent of the country's total oil output of around 2.16 million barrels per day.

Officials said the increase in development needs was caused by a steady growth in the population, which rose from around 2.08 million in 1993 to 2.23 million in 1994. The planning ministry projects it at 2.4 million in 1995.

The industrial sector has also steadily grown due to a government drive to diversify its oil-reliant economy. Growth stood at around 11 per cent in 1994 and 9.2 per cent in 1993.

The agricultural sector grew by 9.6 per cent in 1994 and the construction industry by nearly 8.1 per cent, according to official figures.

## Clinton '96 budget skirts painful spending cuts

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton proposed a \$161 trillion budget Monday designed to woo the politically vital middle class by promising new tax breaks, but no tax increases or cuts in popular programmes like the Medicare system of medical care for the elderly.

But the budget plan, which projects deficits of around \$200 billion through the end of the decade, has already come under harsh criticism from Republicans who are demanding far greater spending cuts to achieve a balanced budget by 2002.

Labour Secretary Robert Reich said Monday it was too early to discuss whether the Clinton administration would accept further public spending cuts under Republican pressure.

"First we have to see what the Republicans are coming up with," he said on ABC television. "They talk a lot about more tax cuts and more budget cuts. But they have not yet come up with anything."

Mr. Clinton's proposed budget for fiscal year 1996, which begins Oct. 1, includes \$63 billion in middle class tax breaks and \$144 billion in spending cuts over five years.

The tax breaks include \$500 tax credits for children aged 13 or under in families with incomes of less than \$75,000, tax deductions for some college tuition and a new individual retirement account programme.

If the five-year budget plan were implemented, the White House forecasts that the federal deficit would be \$196.7 billion in fiscal 1996 and \$194.4 billion in 2000. The deficit would be \$213 billion in 1997, and then drop back slightly below \$200 billion through the year 2000.

"Our agenda is working. By cutting the budget deficit, investing in our people and opening world markets, we have begun to lay the foundation for a strong economy for years to come," Mr. Clinton said in his budget message.

The budget makes no new spending cuts in the federal Medicare or Medicaid (medical care for the poor) programmes — the fastest growing federal programmes — and makes only minor cuts in farm subsidies.

White House officials say Mr. Clinton wants to change Medicare and Medicaid only in the context of an overall health reform bill. Mr. Clinton's plan for universal health insurance and new government controls on health spending died in Congress last year without a vote.

To pay for the middle class tax breaks and also provide \$81 billion in deficit reduction the Clinton plan includes \$181 billion of spending cuts over the next five years.

The bulk of the spending reductions, \$101 billion, come from consolidating 271 government programmes, reducing 86 more and terminating 131 small programmes.

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## Lebanon's growth slows in 1994 — central bank

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's economic growth slowed in 1994 despite a healthy balance of payments surplus and a strong growth in foreign currency reserves, the central bank said Monday.

The Bank of Lebanon said an indicator it introduced last year to measure economic activity in the absence of reliable official statistics was seven points higher in December than a year earlier.

"Although some problems were evident in some sectors in 1994, the economy continued to expand but at a slower pace than in 1993," the bank said in its monthly report for December.

On the plus side, net foreign exchange reserves nearly doubled to \$2.7 billion in 1994 and the country registered its second successive

balance of payments surplus of more than \$1 billion, it said.

Money supply growth also dropped to 25 per cent as the authorities tightened controls and fought inflation, the bank added.

Its economic indicator showed that activity slowed slightly in December for the second straight month, registering 142.6 compared with 142.9 in November.

Lebanon has had no official economic statistics by which to measure growth since the 1975-90 civil war.

The bank's coincident indicator of economic activity, which takes January 1993 as 100, peaked at 152 in October. It combines a number of activities including imports, exports, electricity output and airport and port activity.

Bank Audi, a leading commercial bank, said last week the economy grew an estimated 8.5 per cent in 1994.

It did not give the basis for the estimate and said the rate was not very impressive after a period of stagnation but it showed Lebanon was on the road to sustained recovery.

The central bank said net foreign reserves rose 88 per cent in 1994 to \$2.73 billion despite a \$345 million drop in December caused by a run on the Lebanese lira when billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri tried to resign.

Net reserves stood at \$1.449 billion at the end of 1993.

The bank said it intervened to hold the exchange rate of the lira against "waves of pressure" caused by the political crisis.

**HOROSCOPE**

**FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1995**

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) If you consider the ideas and position of the other fellow today, you find that you can quickly come to a fine understanding with those of whom you have had an argument of late.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) If you give undivided attention to business affairs at hand now, you can expand as is your desire. Take interest in family and good friends later in the day for progress there.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Make it a point this morning to do something nice for a higher up that will truly please and also ingratiate yourself to the general public and to those who can be helpful to you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Look to a charming personality with the ideas that can help you get ahead faster or to some person from out town who is equally well informed.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Financial affairs should be of first importance to you today so you will soon have a greater abundance in the future time ahead.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) If you show a true attitude of cooperation now, you find that associates in any sphere of your endeavours will be more helpful and thoughtful. Accept an invitation this evening.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Speak clearly and precisely in order to get the cooperation of fellow associates this AM, otherwise there's apt to be much confusion and you won't know what is causing the problem.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Here is a day and night when you can really enjoy yourself, after you have quickly and efficiently attended to important tasks that need immediate attention.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Wisely sticking to methods and principals that have proven successful in the past will bring "even greater rewards today."

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Gleaning information you need is fine now as well as being more firmly convinced of the expediency of your own plans and ideas.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) It is important that you study and handle financial affairs more wisely if you are to get the full benefits that are possible today.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A fine day for sitting down with understanding. Go to lunch or dinner in a charming spot and forget the expense.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx

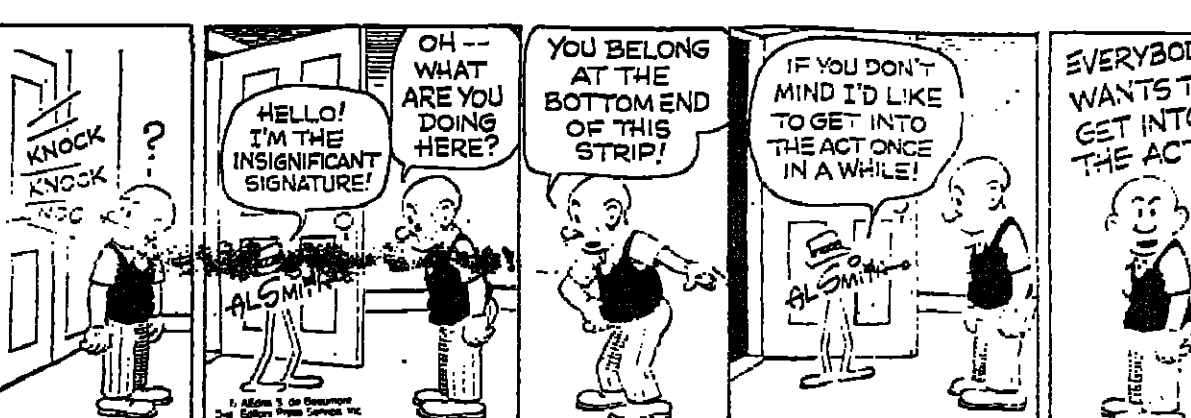
## Peanuts



## An Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POUMI  
CAMKS  
JUNIER  
LABBUE

Print answer here: " " " " " "

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRANC FLUTE THROAT MOSQUE

Answer: Why they believed the mathematician's conclusion — HE WAS ON THE SQUARE

## THE Daily Crossword

by Matthew Higgins

ACROSS

- At a distance
- Wetly forecast
- Davenport
- Genie's home
- Exponent
- Like — of bricks
- Presidential race step, often
- Brick corner
- Anglo
- Brillie
- Celt
- Ge — George
- Refuge
- Country or social end
- Snoggin
- Under water
- Sinister's rock
- Woody's kid
- Presidential race step, always
- Delect
- Ryan or Dunne
- Boozy
- Dynamic
- Begged
- Frying pan
- Patentist cloth
- More usagely
- One: Cor.
- Mineral spring
- Presidential race step, once
- Repair roads
- Modules
- In good shape
- Standout
- Minimal
- Frank

DOWN

- College's sacred tree
- Card game
- Surrounded by
- Speed letters
- Cerousals
- Fallish
- Basin's companion
- Conger
- Precious possession
- Gown material
- Elevator man
- 12 lamb
- "— and the King of Siam"
- Interference
- Student's aid
- Sudden wind
- 26 Selling vessels
- 27 Desiccated
- 31 Blunder
- 33 Supply for the future
- 34 Heat chambers
- 36 In good spirits
- 37 Patched grounds ably?
- 47 Fast leg
- 48 Adore
- 49 Director Kazan
- 50 TV staple
- 51 North or South
- 52 So be it
- 54 Feminine suffix
- 55 Greek letter



## business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Fate of glass plant undecided

★ The minister of labour denied that a decision had been taken to liquidate the glass factory in Ma'an. He explained that winding up the plant was still under study because the company employed many workers who had rights which should be examined objectively. The minister said the final solution to this troubled company rests with the government which is still considering the recommendation of liquidation without any indication as to when a decision will be taken. Should liquidation be taken, the minister pointed out, it is envisaged that the workers will be transferred to other government companies within the same region (Al Ra'i).

★ The Telecommunications Corporation will begin implementing its privatisation plan in early March. A study concerning this process is currently being examined at the Prime Ministry and a team of British experts are preparing the work system and methods that will be followed in the future (Al Ra'i).

★ The director general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) issued new regulations for brokerages, to be effective as of May 1, 1995. Under these regulations, brokerages should collect the value of their deals from customers within one week from the day of effecting a contract. Also, accounts either receivables, or payables should not exceed 200 per cent of the brokerages' net capital and total obligations on a brokerage should not exceed 250 per cent of the net capital. Other regulations emphasised that any withdrawals or deposits made by partners in a brokerage should be clearly pointed out and that withdrawals by all partners should not exceed 20 per cent of the brokerage's paid-up capital. Concerning liquidity, the regulations stipulated that brokerages maintain liquid or near liquid assets that, at least, cover 100 per cent of short-term liabilities (Al Ra'i).

★ From about 6,271 unemployed registered last year at the Jordanian Employment Office, which is part of the Ministry of Labour, the office managed to find work for 5,128 persons of whom 167 were holders of B.A. degrees from various universities. The number of unemployed with a B.A. degree was 211 while the number of those with junior certificates and diplomas from community colleges stood at 793. The bulk of the jobless, 5,298 persons, were at the Tawfiq level and below (Al Ra'i).

★ A committee from the Ministry of Supply has been formed to study the cost of producing fresh cow milk and to examine any change in the prices of fodder or veterinary drugs that might affect the production cost of milk. Farmers sell fresh cow milk for 200 fils a kilogramme at the farm and for 210 fils to dairy plants under a fixed price from the Ministry of Supply (Al Ra'i).

★ A number of fuel distributors has been referred to courts by the Specifications and Standardisation Corporation. The distributors, having manipulated the quantity of fuel sold to consumer through various fraudulent means. Those involved were 14 fuel distributors, two fuel stations and two gas distributors (Al Ra'i).

★ Jordan Steel Co. is expected to start commercial production in October this year. The company will be able to produce 120,000 tonnes a year of reinforced steel of different sizes. Jordan steel, which has a JD 15 million capital, is expected to provide 150 job opportunities (Al Aswak).

## Speculators sell metals; copper below \$2,800

LONDON (R) — The world price of copper fell below a key market support level at \$2,800 per tonne Monday after speculative funds cashed in on a recent boom and sold. Some fund money seems to be deserting industrial metals for revived bond and stock markets, traders on the London Metal Exchange (LME) said. That may ease worldwide

inflationary pressures. One factor behind investors' anxiety about metals is a rise in interest rates. Both the United States and Britain raised rates last week to preempt inflation.

The consequent brake on economic activity could reduce demand for industrial raw materials. Copper was bid as low as \$2,785 Monday. This was

around \$60 down from late levels on Friday and almost \$300 below a 54-year high of \$3,081 hit as recently as mid-January.

Aluminium and nickel prices also dropped. "All the metals have been breaking down," said Wolfgang Becker of Merrill Lynch Metals in Hamburg.

"It looks like the funds are continuing to sell commodities and look to get back in to the bond and equity markets," he added.

Some traders say thin trading may have exaggerated Monday's shake-out and fundamental supply-demand factors, as economies around the world continue to expand, should support the metals.

Copper demand from the electrical and vehicle industries remains brisk. Market analysts think that the "bull-run" in metals will probably resume after the present sharp correction.

But they say speculative funds show profits of perhaps \$1,000 a tonne in markets like copper, notched up as they rebounded last year from recession-led lows of the early 1980s.

Copper and aluminium both gained around 75 per cent in value during 1994. So it may make sense for the funds to cash in now and reinvest in other assets rather than gamble on perhaps \$200 per tonne more in commodities. Aluminium prices held up

somewhat better than copper on Monday, just above \$2,040 per tonne after \$2,100 late Friday.

Stocks of aluminium, in demand in the construction industry, have fallen faster than those of copper this year.

Nickel took a hammering to below \$8,800 per tonne. It has been as high as \$10,500 recently on strong demand for making stainless steel and interest from funds.

As selling hit base metals, gold bullion traded steadily just above \$375 per ounce. Reviving stock markets have lured money out of base metals and London bullion traders said this was keeping money out of gold and putting a lid on gold prices.

## China to crack down on car smuggling in '95

BEIJING (R) — China will crack down this year on the smuggling and illegal assembly of cars after more than 60,000 contraband vehicles flooded in last year, the Xinhua news agency has said.

The number of smuggled cars fell slightly in 1994 but the influx was still serious and the problem of illegal assembly was also severe, it quoted Chen Ping, deputy general manager of the China Trading Centre for Imported Cars, as saying.

In 1994, China's official imports of cars were 237,000, while the total entering was well over 300,000 if confiscated smuggled cars were included. Mr. Chen gave no estimate of how many smuggled vehicles evaded confiscation.

He gave no details of what measures would be taken to stem the influx of contraband cars, usually luxury models seen as a status symbol among the new rich and officials of state units.

In recent years, the prop-

ortion of luxury cars in China's imports has soared — mainly of Mercedes Benz, Toyota Crowns, Lexus, Cadillacs and Lincolns. In recent years, medium-class and luxury cars have accounted for 80 per cent of imports.

Many of the Mercedes Benz and Lexus carry military or police licence plates. Beijing mounted a high-profile campaign against luxury cars last year, ordering senior officials across the country to turn in their imported models for less ostentatious domestically produced vehicles.

Smuggled and illegally assembled cars usually sell for well below the normal market price. The difference for some passenger cars exceeded 100,000 yuan (\$12,000) and this was "seriously obstructing the auto market", Mr. Chen said.

China charges import duties of about 100 per cent on imported cars.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST		FOR MONDAY		06/02/1995	
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	
ARAB BANK	340	62730	184,500	184,500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	6887	28860	4,240	4,210	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	7918	32460	4,110	4,100	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1000	2160	2,800	2,760	
THE HOUSING BANK	3150	18707	5,920	5,950	
JORDAN KHALIL BANK	966	2928	3,030	2,970	
JORDAN GULF BANK	250	355	1,450	1,420	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6250	23313	3,750	3,730	
BUSINESS BANK	5000	17500	3,500	3,500	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4000	16698	4,180	4,170	
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12350	17325	1,120	1,100	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2500	3565	1,450	1,440	
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>		<b>51563</b>	<b>227327</b>	<b>JORDAN NUMBER: 157.65</b> <b>CHANGE: -0.197</b>	
UNITED INSURANCE	1500	4035	2,800	2,690	
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	300	1230	4,200	4,100	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2400	16554	2,350	2,350	
YAMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	2000	6300	3,100	3,150	
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	631	1574	2,500	2,500	
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	500	1300	2,600	2,600	
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>		<b>7331</b>	<b>20093</b>	<b>JORDAN NUMBER: 135.94</b> <b>CHANGE: -0.171</b>	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	950	1406	1,490	1,480	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	14200	19643	1,390	1,380	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2002	9510	5,000	4,750	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1950	6243	3,220	3,180	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	800	1729	2,200	2,200	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA	300	3595	12,000	11,950	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMPOSITE HOTELS	3600	8341	2,350	2,310	
ARAB TRAVEL FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	200	720	3,600	3,600	
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>		<b>24002</b>	<b>51186</b>	<b>JORDAN NUMBER: 129.04</b> <b>CHANGE: -1.551</b>	
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1176	39489	33,410	34,500	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	134473	396508	2,930	2,950	
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	150	765	5,150	5,100	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	109	1026	7,110	7,100	
JORDAN TANNING	1450	10875	7,500	7,500	
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	4150	31400	7,650	7,550	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	16748	70487	4,420	4,200	
JORDAN PRINTING & PACKING	146	734	5,300	5,030	
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	2554	6879	2,600	2,700	
SPINNING & WEAVING	5600	13815	2,600	2,530	
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	1850	5295	2,710	2,730	
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2850	22392	7,900	7,850	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2400	2337	970	950	
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	350	2366	6,850	6,770	
ALUMINUM & POLYESTER	15200	1529	1,710	1,780	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	1000	1360	1,370	1,360	
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2250	1000	4,100	4,000	
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	500	700	1,400	1,400	
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	350	1435	4,200	4,100	
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	2100	8890	4,300	4,200	
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	250	438	1,780	1,780	
ARAB CENTER FOR WEARM. & CHEMICALS	2230	2730	2,400	2,600	
RAFTER INVESTMENT	2000	3440	1,720	1,700	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3150	12489	3,950	4,000	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	13170	25885	2,000	1,950	
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>		<b>199826</b>	<b>664291</b>	<b>JORDAN NUMBER: 122.95</b> <b>CHANGE: -0.512</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>282722</b>	<b>962897</b>	<b>JORDAN NUMBER: 141.26</b> <b>CHANGE: -0.402</b>	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		118812			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		151081			

## Jordan offers attractive terms to oil investors

AMMAN (R) — Jordan will offer foreign oil companies attractive production-sharing terms to lure them back to drill in the Kingdom, a senior energy official has said. "Jordan is open to any foreign company which wants to reach a contract with us for oil production sharing and can choose any area to drill, and it will be granted on a first-come first-serve basis," Fakhruddin Al-Daghestani, director general of Jordan Natural Resources Authority, told Reuters.

Jordan has found small commercial quantities of natural gas but foreign oil exploration firms have left in the past two years after unsuccessful drilling.

Mr. Daghestani said Jordan was offering "attractive production sharing agreements in comparison with other countries in the region," in an area of about 50,000 square kilometres that is still undrilled. He did not disclose the terms.

A total of 92 wells have been drilled on 10,000 square kilometres in the past 30 years without success. However, only 16 of the wells were drilled by the eight foreign companies to operate in the period, Mr. Daghestani added.

Jordan's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources intends to step up oil exploration by setting up a state-owned national oil exploration company, he said.

The company, expected to be approved soon by the cabinet, is to begin operating in the first half of 1995.

Jordan is currently drilling for more natural gas in the north eastern Roubah area near the Iraqi border to increase current daily production of nearly 30 million cubic feet used for electricity generation.

Mr. Daghestani said three wells drilled for oil last year in Jordan's Dead Sea area produced disappointing results.

## \$20b to boost Asian oil refining capacities

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asia will gain substantial new oil refining capacity with about \$20 billion in "firm" investment expected up to 1998, adding substantial new capacity in the region, an official has said.

"Total firm additions are estimated at 2.7 million barrels per day and the greatest increases will occur in South Korea, China, India, Japan and Thailand," said Andrew Speirs, U.S.-based Chem Systems' general manager for East Asia.

Mr. Speirs told an international conference on Asia's fuels and lubricants here that about 80 per cent of the increase will be in major expansion of existing refineries, with only five new refineries to be established.

He said the low level of firm Chinese refining expansions, relative to projected demand growth, "reflects the uncertainties that exist in China with regard to the regulatory and legal structures that will define new investments."

"Despite many projects that are being studied, international companies are tak-

ing a slow approach before committing to major investments in China," Mr. Speirs told more than 250 officials from the downstream sector of Asia's oil industry attending the conference.

He said that while refineries in developed nations were concentrating on reducing costs by improving quality and output from existing facilities, Asian refineries were focusing on increasing total volume of product output in response to the region's rapid growth for petroleum products.

Refinery capacity in East Asia now exceeded that of both Europe and America, Mr. Speirs said, adding that China, Japan, South Korea, India and Indonesia would account for more than 70 per cent of the next decade's increase in product demand.

Singapore, Asia's traditional refining centre, was net-increasing its refining capacity in line with the region but was likely to be the "swing" supplier, increasing by focusing on higher value petroleum products and petrochemicals," he said.

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South African Davis Cup number one Wayne Ferreira returns the ball against Australian Patrick Rafter at the Westridge tennis stadium in Durban on Monday (AFP photo)

## Davis Cup

### Sweden stages amazing comeback

LONDON (AP) — Defending champion Sweden, one of only two countries in the history of the Davis Cup World Group to win a match after being down 0-2, did it again Sunday as Stefan Edberg and Jonas Bjorkman led a 3-2 victory over Denmark.

Bjorkman, playing in place of the ill Magnus Larsson, nearly blew a 4-0 lead in the fifth set before beating Frederik Fetterlein 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-4 to clinch the contest.

Earlier, world No. 9 Edberg had tied the score at 2-2 with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) victory over Kenneth Carlsen.

"If I had lost both games against the Danes, I just wouldn't have survived," said Edberg, who lost to Fetterlein on Friday.

It was only the fourth time that a team has come from 0-2 down to win a World Group match since its introduction as the top level for Davis Cup play in 1981 — and three of the four times it was an Edberg-led Sweden team that pulled it off.

The Swedes did it against Canada in the first round in 1992, and again against the United States in last year's semifinals. Mexico also came back from 0-2 against Switzerland in a relegation round match in 1988.

Bjorkman, ranked 47th on the ATP tour, was called into service when the 16th-ranked Larsson pulled out with an upset stomach. After Bjorkman and Edberg lost their singles matches Friday, Bjorkman and Jan Apell took the doubles Saturday to set up the thrilling finish.

Fetterlein, ranked No. 125, rallied to cut Bjorkman's lead to 3-4 in the final set before dropping the final game on the indoor carpet at Copenhagen.

"I was very close to making it in the final set, but he (Bjorkman) was the best," said Fetterlein.

Elsewhere in the World Group, six matches were decided by a 4-1 score: Russia over Belgium, Netherlands over Switzerland, Austria over Spain, Italy over the

Czech Republic, Germany over Croatia, and United States over France.

Australia took a 2-1 lead over South Africa in a delayed contest.

Austria 4, Spain 1: On hard court at Vienna, Thomas Muster overpowered world No. 4 Sergi Bruguera 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 to give Austria a winning 3-1 lead before Alexander Antonitsch put away Carlos Costa 6-3, 6-4.

Bruguera called it "the best match that Thomas has ever played against me."

"I don't know why the Davis Cup brings out the best in me," said Muster.

Italy 4, Czech Republic 1: The matches on the clay at Naples were virtually the only sports event in Italy not canceled on Sunday. The nation called off virtually everything else after a fan was killed at a soccer game last weekend.

Italy advanced when Andrea Gaudenzi defeated Salva Dosedel 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 in the first of the reverse singles. Renzo Furlan completed the contest by beating Czech Daniel Vacek 3-6, 7-6, (8-6), 6-2.

United States 3, France 1: At St. Petersburg, Florida, saying he was just happy to make up his "embarrassing" performance on Friday when he lost in straight sets to Cedric Pioline, Todd Martin served 20 aces to beat Guy Forget 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-5) and clinch the American victory.

It was Forget's third loss in as many days. Jim Courier finished off the win with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Cedric Pioline.

Russia 4, Belgium 1: On clay at Antwerp, Johan Van Herck gave Belgium its only victory of the weekend, beating Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-1. Andrei Chesnokov earned the final point for Russia, which held an insurmountable 3-0 lead after Saturday's doubles, with a 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) victory over Kris Goossens.

Netherlands 4, Switzerland 1: On clay at Geneva, Richard Krajicek routed

Swiss debutant Lorenzo Manta 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to clinch the Dutch victory, and Jan Siemerink followed up by winning 6-4, 6-3 over Patrick Mohr.

Switzerland's fate was all but sealed Friday when 15th-ranked Marc Rosset, leading his opening singles match against Jacco Eltingh, retired from the match with a broken foot. He'll be out for up to three months.

The 236th-ranked Manta replaced Rosset in both the doubles and the reverse singles, and Switzerland lost both matches.

Germany 4, Croatia 1: On hard court at Karlsruhe, Germany's Michael Stich won his third match of the weekend, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-4), over Sasa Hirzon. Stich also won his singles match Friday and played doubles Saturday.

Earlier, Goran Ivanisevic picked up Croatia's only point when he won a battle of big serves against Markus Zoccke, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Boris Becker, who also won in singles Friday, said he will play in the next round against the Netherlands. The German Tennis Federation is trying to get Becker to commit to a 3-year Davis Cup contract worth 9 million marks \$6 million.

Australia 2, South Africa 1: The South Africans prepared a special sand-and-gel surface to frustrate the "woodies" but it didn't work. Doubles pair mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge overwhelmed Wayne Ferreira and Pietie Norval 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

Underdog South Africa, playing its first World Group contest since being expelled from the Davis Cup in 1979 because of apartheid, had hoped to even the odds by holding the match in the hot, humid Indian Ocean port of Durban on a slow artificial surface.

But Woodforde said experience won out.

"We're a top team and we can play anywhere on any surface," the Australian said.

## Shaquille leads Magic over Knicks

ORLANDO (AP) — It was a game the New York Knicks were looking forward to.

It was a chance to show Orlando exactly who the defending conference champions were, a chance to prove to the Magic that reputations are not made in the first three months of the season.

But when it came time to play their best ball of the season — in overtime, at Orlando arena — the Knicks came up with a big zero.

New York shot 0-for-10 from the field in overtime and lost to Orlando 103-100 Sunday.

"There was an anxiousness on our part once we got back and tied it," said Knicks coach Pat Riley. "Then it's about focus and about patience and execution. We did not have to push the throttle down."

Shaquille O'Neal won another personal duel with Patrick Ewing, scoring 41 points and grabbing 15 rebounds to Ewing's 38 and 13.

Nick Anderson had 15 points, Anfernee Hardaway 13 and Dennis Scott 12.

In other games, Houston beat Phoenix 124-100, Seattle beat Miami 136-109, Chicago beat Golden State 97-93, Charlotte beat Washington 111-105 and Boston beat Minnesota 115-82.

In the Orlando-New York game, Dennis Scott broke a 98-98 tie with a 3-pointer, and Anfernee Hardaway made a pair of free throws with 11.1 seconds remaining as the Magic outscored New York 5-2 in the extra period.

Ewing, who hit a 3-pointer late in regulation and a clutch baseline jumper to send the game into overtime, missed another 3-point attempt with two seconds left in the extra period.

John Starks scored 21 points for New York, which never led. Derek Harper added 20 points.

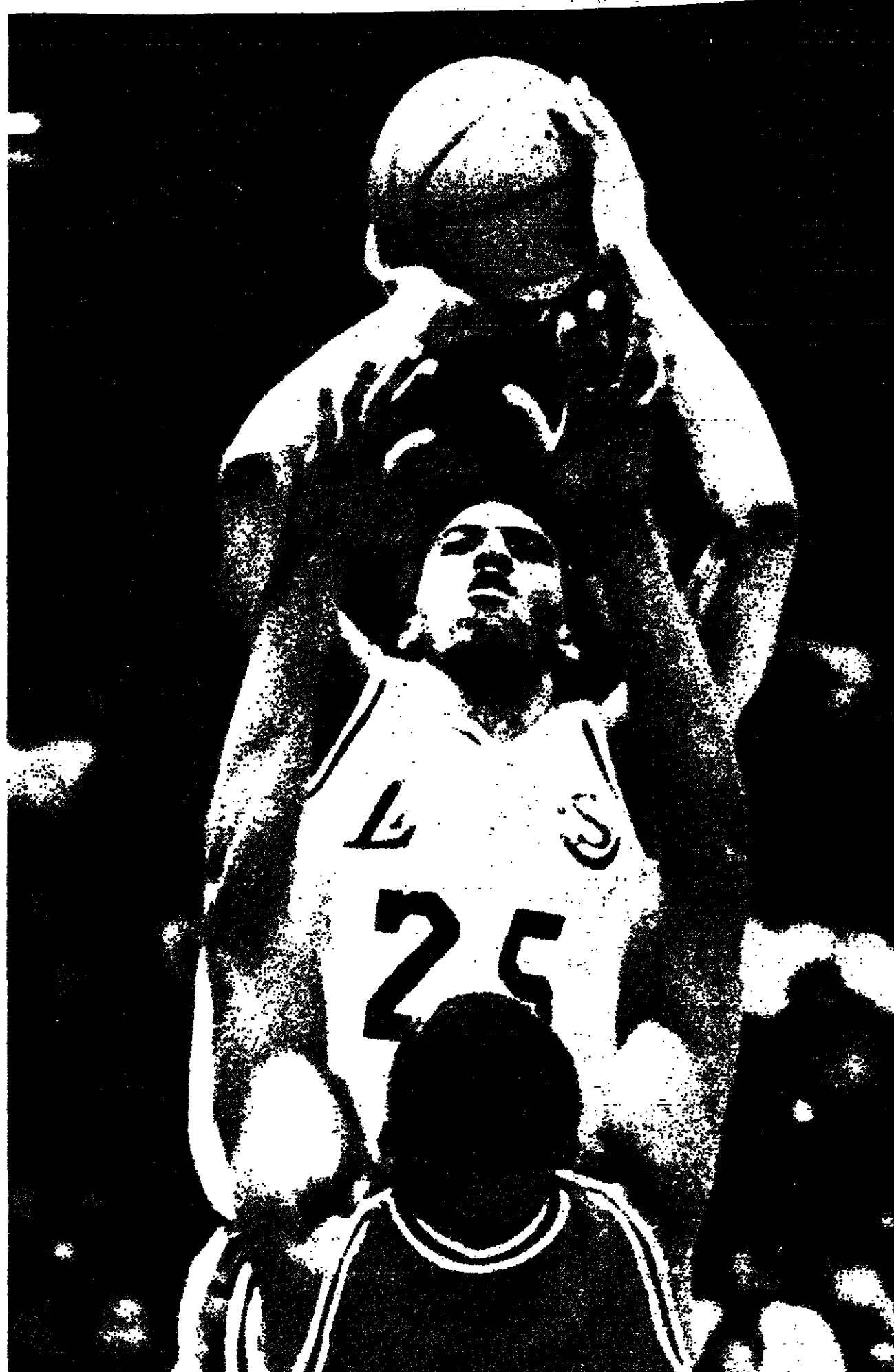
Rockets 124, Suns 100: At Phoenix, Hakeem Olajuwon had 28 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks and Sam Cassell and Vernon Maxwell were a combined 9-for-14 from 3-point range as the Rockets showed the form that made the NBA champions last season.

"I thought the real Houston Rockets showed up for this game," Maxwell said. "It was just a great game for us. We got the post play out of Hakeem, and the guys on the outside were knocking down the 3s."

Houston became only the third team to defeat Phoenix at home this season and the first to beat the Suns twice.

"They shot 12-of-24 from 3-point land," said Charles Barkley, who had 24 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. "There isn't much you can really do about that. They shoot 12-for-24, they're going to beat us every time. We've got to make a decision what to do about that monster in the middle."

Supersonics 136, Heat 109: At Miami, the Sonics notched their 10th straight road win and their 14th win in 16



Eddie Jones of the Los Angeles Lakers lines up a shot over the outstretched arms of Corle Blount of the Chicago Bulls (AFP photo)

games overall.

Seven Seattle players scored in double figures, led by Shawn Kemp with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Kendall Gill had 21 points and Detlef Schrempf and Gary Payton added 18 apiece.

The Sonics hit four 3-pointers in the first period and six of their first eight to blow the game open early.

"That's the best we've seen a team play against us all year," Miami coach Loughery said. "It's the best team I've seen this year."

Bulls 97, Warriors 93: At Oakland, California, Scottie Pippen scored 35 points and Chicago won despite blowing an early 24-point lead.

The Bulls were up 95-88 with 1:48 to play and still nearly lost. Tom Gugliotta made a 3-pointer and Tim Hardaway hit two free throws after Pippen fouled out, cutting the deficit to 95-93 with 50.5 seconds to play.

After B.J. Armstrong came up short on a 15-footer, the Warriors had a chance to tie, but Keith Jennings missed a layup with 20 seconds to go. Armstrong was fouled and hit two free throws to end the scoring.

Time Hardaway led the Warriors with 28 points. Gatling scored 23 points in 27 minutes before being ejected with 9:09 to play.

Hornets 111, Bullets 105: At Charlotte, North Carolina, Robert Parish hit two free throws and Dell Curry sank a long jumper in the final 38 seconds to extend Charlotte's winning streak to six games.

Alonzo Mourning got 26 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte. Curry, Larry Johnson and Scott Burrell added 16 apiece.

It wasn't a particularly good game for us, but we came up with enough good plays to win," Charlotte coach Allan Bristow said.

"It's a game we probably wouldn't have won last year, and that shows you how much character we have developed this season."

Juwan Howard led Washington with 23 points. Calbert Cheaney had 20 and Chris Webber had 16 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and three blocks.

Celtics 115, Timberwolves 82: At Boston, Dee Brown scored 16 of his 23 points in the second quarter when Boston pulled away.

Brown and Eric Montross scored Boston's first 20 points of the period and the Celtics turned a four-point lead into a 55-31 advantage with 4:08 left in the half. Boston never trailed by fewer than 18 after that.

Isaiah Rider led Minnesota with 18 points but was just 7-for-23 from the field.

## RESULTS

Orlando 103, New York 100, OT.  
Seattle 136, Miami 109  
Charlotte 111, Washington 105  
Houston 124, Phoenix 100  
Boston 115, Minnesota 82  
Chicago 97, Golden State 93

## AFC overpower NFC to win Pro Bowl

HONOLULU (AP) — Marshall Faulk, the only rookie in the game, ran for 180 yards to Shatter O.J. Simpson's 22-year-old Pro Bowl record Sunday when the AFC overpowered the NFC 41-13.

In the concluding game of the NFL season, the Indianapolis Colts star carried 13 times and scored on a 49-yard run to top Simpson's record of 112 yards rushing in the 1973 Pro Bowl.

Seattle's Chris Warren also went over the previous rushing mark with 14 carries for 127 yards for the AFC, which rolled up 400 yards on the ground against the NFC's all-star defense.

Tight end Eric Green of Pittsburgh had two touch-

down receptions as the AFC, whose champions have lost 11 straight in the Super Bowl, won the Pro Bowl for the third time in five years.

The AFC defense gave up just 309 yards of offense to the NFC, only 41 yards rushing.

Green caught a 22-yard scoring pass from Denver's John Elway in the second quarter, helping the AFC rally from a 10-0 deficit. He then had a 16-yard TD reception from the Los Angeles Raiders' Jeff Hostetler in the final quarter, when the AFC broke the game open with three touchdowns.

Steve Young of San Francisco, the MVP of the 49ers' 49-26 Super Bowl victory

over San Diego a week earlier, helped stake the NFC to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter, but a third-quarter field goal by Minnesota's Foad Rezaei was the only other NFC scoring.

Faulk made several spectacular runs, including a 41-yarder early in the fourth quarter. On his 49-yard touchdown, off a fake punt, he stripped tacklers in the secondary in breaking free for his team's final touchdown.

Cleveland's Leroy Hoard put the AFC in front to stay when he threaded his way through the defense on a 4-yard touchdown run for a 17-10 lead 2:07 before halftime.

## Ferrari unveil F1 challenger

MARANELLO, Italy (AP) — Ferrari on Monday unveiled its needle-nosed challenger for the 1995 Formula One World Championship with which, said Ferrari President Luca Di Montezemolo, "we must really come back and win."

The famous team has not won the Championship since 1979.

Built "rigorously" to the new 1995 aerodynamic and engine rules, the 412 T2 was unveiled without key aerodynamic elements "to give other teams the least possible time to study our ideas," said British chief designer John Barnard.

It features a new V 12 3 litre engine, 10 kilos lighter

than the previous 3.5 litre unit, but Ferrari are also working on a V 10 engine. Team Director Jean Todt said that the engine would be run first towards the end of April and road-tested in mid-season.

Barnard said he had designed the 412 T2 to accept the V10 with little modification, but he felt it would be "unrealistic" to expect to race it this year.

Italian ski star Alberto Tomba joined drivers Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi, and test driver Nicola Larini, for the formal presentation, and Montezemolo asked Tomba to touch the car "to instill your winning spirit."

<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b></p> <p>Yusra, Mahmoud Hamedieh in</p> <p><b>The Immigrant</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p><b>PLAZA</b></p> <p>Bruce Willis...in</p> <p><b>DIE HARD II</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>The movie: THE LION KING will be shown on Fridays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. &amp; 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD</b></p> <p><b>CONCORD '1'</b></p> <p><b>ROBOCOP '3'</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 2:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10:30</p> <p><b>CONCORD '2'</b></p> <p>Sylvester Stallone — Sharon Stone in</p> <p><b>The Specialist</b></p> <p>Shows: 2:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Tel.: 618274 - 618275</p> <p><b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b></p> <p>SUM'A in the satirical play</p> <p><b>HI CITIZEN</b></p> <p>Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawagfeh</p> <p>Daily from 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Children's Play</p> <p><b>The Ninja Turtles Show</b></p> <p>Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb</p> <p>Daily at 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p><b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b></p> <p>Presents</p> <p><b>Abu Awwad</b></p> <p>in the social comedy</p> <p><b>Punctured Bag</b></p> <p>The theatre is closed on Mondays</p> <p>Tickets are available all day</p>	<p>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Tel.: 625155</p> <p><b>AHLAN THEATRE</b></p> <p>Presents:</p> <p><b>The political satire:</b></p> <p><b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b></p> <p>at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation, please call 625155</p> <p>The theatre is closed on Saturdays &amp; Sundays</p>
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## Figure skating championships end with money in the future

DORTMUND (AP)—A the end of a European Figure Skating Championships week in top talent, the sport's governing body is considering using money to keep the best skaters at its competitions.

Surya Bonaly of France took her fifth European title in the absence of Olympic champion Oksana Baiul, who skipped to the pro ranks. The Ukrainian is still uncertain about applying for reinstatement to the ISU after turning pro soon after her victory in Lillehammer.

"Prize money is part of the game today," Ottavio Cinquanta, the president of the ISU, said Sunday. "I can't understand, with so much money to the ISU such as the TV rights (why) we can't give some money back to the skaters."

The International Skating Union said Sunday that it will consider giving cash prizes in future championships in an effort to keep the top skaters from turning pro early.

Cinquanta said that the next ISU council meeting in Birmingham, England, during the world champions next month, will be looking into various prize proposals. Then they will be recommended for acceptance at the ISU Congress in 1996.

"A market is a market. If an ineligible skater has better conditions then we will have to work out things to give more motivation to stay with us," Cinquanta said.

Cinquanta said that it was fine for skaters to perform in exhibitions or shown, that if they are involved in a competition, it must be according to ISU rules and judges in order for the competitor to stay eligible.

"We have to control our sport," Cinquanta said. "The thing we have to offer is the title and that is what the pros have going in."

The title at the European Championships were split among four countries with a 17-year-old Russian, Ilya Kulik, taking the men's title.

Kulik was asked if he intended to leave the sport early if he should win a world title, like Baiul.

"It's difficult to say," Kulik said. "Life is full of surprises. But my plans are to partici-



Finland ice dancers Susanna Rahkamo and partner Petri Kokko perform the European Figure Skating Championships (AFP photo)

pate in the Olympics... not only in the coming one, but beyond that," the 1988 Olympics are in Nagano, Japan.

Bonaly was wavering on whether to go to the pro ranks earlier this season. But a deal arranged between the French Skating Federation and a French Television Network gives her a million francs a year (\$190,000) for staying eligible through the next Olympics.

"We can't block a human being from making a personal decision," Cinquanta said. "What the ISU can do is to protect its own organization."

The skaters who were reinstated last year, such as Katarina Witt and Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, have returned to the pro ranks.

## Italy pays respect to victim of fan violence

ROME (AP) — Italians headed to soccer stadiums as usual Sunday. But this time, the gates were locked.

No crisp passes, no diving saves, no controversial referee calls.

And no fan clashes. The decision to ban professional sports on Sunday after a fatal stabbing in Genoa last week forced Italians to try other activities and reflect on the violence.

Some carried flowers and others simply strolled past stadium gates on the nation's first game-day without soccer in half a century.

Olympic stadium — scheduled site of a match between third-place As Roma and Internazionale of Milan — instead hosted an impromptu parking-lot game between children.

Two teenagers, Roma fans, chatted nearby. One, a season-ticket holder, said he could think of nowhere else to go on a Sunday.

Giovanni Altobelli, waking his dog along the arena's perimeter, took note of the

silence. "It's all very calm today," he said.

Inside, prowling cats replaced spectators and birds' chirps filled silence normally drowned with the rabid cheers of "ultras," the Italian equivalent of British soccer hooligans.

A policeman leaned against his kiosk at the stadium entrance, smoking a cigarette rather than undertaking his usual job: controlling unruly fans.

He said thinks the one-day ban is proper "out of respect for the loss of a young life" but quickly added that violence will return when the fans do — "in another seven days."

Italian authorities called off Sunday's soccer league matches and other professional sports events in response to the Jan. 29 death of a fan before the Genoa-AC Milan game. A 19-year-old Milan supporter was charged with the slaying, which touched off demands to crack down on violent fans.

The change in activity was

obvious throughout the capital on Sunday.

Cafe patrons drank to music, not the widely-followed play-by-play radio broadcasts. There was not the familiar site of men hunched to hear their transistor radios — the only way to follow the afternoon matches in Italy because they are not televised.

Television stations showed movies rather than the regular soccer talks shows. Newspapers published guides to activities for people caught without their accustomed 90 minutes of soccer.

Elsewhere, about 1,000 people attended a memorial mass in Cosenza for Vincenzo Spagnolo, the stabbing victim. The service began at 2:30 p.m. to coincide with scheduled game starts.

Outside the Genoa stadium where Spagnolo was killed, an estimated 3,000 people — including hundreds of "ultras" — donned team scarves — visited a makeshift memorial dotted with flowers, flags and handwritten



A lonesome soccer supporter stands in front of the closed and empty Milan "San Siro" Stadium at the first Sunday without championship matches in Italy as national mourning takes place for the young supporter, killed last Sunday (AFP photo)

signs. In a town outside Florence, people gathered to protest stadium violence.

Some even pretended there were games.

The Corriere dello Sport newspaper published "updated" first-division standings based on phone-in poll of fan predictions of what game results would have been had they been played.

The paper's editor, Italo Cacci, doesn't believe the matches should have been cancelled.

"Cancelling soccer was a serious mistake," Cacci said. "It is like giving a title of honour to the violent fans. It shows them they can bring the game to its knees."

But many Italians disagree, noting that a day of reflection is good for the soccer-obsessed country.

Nearly 80 per cent of respondents to a survey published in the Gazzetta dello Sport thought the Italian soccer league should take Sunday off.

The paper's Sunday supplement carried a full-page headline echoing the words of Spagnolo's father: "One should not die for a game."

"It's really a tragedy what happened in Genoa," said Carlo Morelli, a Rome shop owner. "Today is for thinking about what sports should be about, bringing people together."



A bouquet of flowers has been placed on the stands of Genoa's Massar Stadium, commemorating the death of a Genoa supporter (AFP photo)

## Aircraft carrier unusual entry in America's Cup

SAN DIEGO (AP) — So you thought sailing was a genteel sport?

How would you like to look up and see a 94,000-ton (85,000 metric ton) nuclear-powered aircraft carrier emerging from dense fog smack in front of you?

That's what happened Saturday during America's Cup racing off Point Loma. The navy isn't quite sure how the USS Abraham Lincoln wound up so close to the 75-foot (23 meter) elite racing boats — two were racing and two more were lining up to race — but America's Cup officials were miffed by the whole experience.

"How she wandered in there I don't know," race director Pat Healy said. "We were anchored out there for an hour. It wasn't as though we were hiding in the bushes."

"They've got instruments on there that can see a body in the water and I don't know why they didn't see us," he said.

Commander Mike Thurwanger, a navy spokesman, said the ship may have been travelling closer to the shore because of the dense fog, but he said it was doing everything right given the poor visibility — traveling slowly, using additional radar and extra lookouts. The ship was on its way to naval air station north island.

"If the race was not going on, it would have been a very appropriate place for her to be," he said. "I don't believe she was aimlessly drifting around looking for a hole in the fog."

Still, the ship's crew apparently did not realize the ship had entered the course until after its forward lookout peered down and saw a yellow race buoy.

The ship then came to a halt about 200 yards (180 metres) from the starting line, in the middle of the

course, and after 1 (hours of maneuvering, passed through the area. Thurwanger said none of the racing yachts or spectator boats were in danger.

The Lincoln had apparently been made aware of the general area in which the races were taking place, but may not have been apprised of the exact latitude and longitude of the race course, he said.

"We believe there may have been some more accurate information provided through other sources," he said. "That's what we're investigating, if the Lincoln had that on board."

At the time of the intrusion by the thousand-foot ship, two boats were already on the 18.55-mile (30 km) course, and OneAustralia and Japan's Nippon Challenge were beginning their pre-start maneuvers in the second race.

"It was pretty scary at first and then we realised they were able to stop," said Peter Gilmore, sailing coach for the Japanese syndicate Nippon Challenge. "Still, it's incredible that they could make such an error."

Young America beats Stars and Stripes

Young America rallied during the last leg Sunday to defeat Stars and Stripes on the America's Cup Defender course, ending a five-race victory streak for Dennis Conner's boat.

Young America had fallen behind by more than two minutes because of a tangled sail, but caught Conner's dark blue boat on the home stretch.

"It is always nice to come back," said Young America skipper Kevin Mahaney.

After a strong start in the competition, Young America has struggled lately. Sunday's



Tag Heuer's Bowman Kevin Bowman (centre) prepared for a sail change while rounding the windward mark to head down wind in her race against Rio de Espana during the America's Cup Challenger's race off the coast of San Diego (AFP photo)

win snapped a three-race losing streak.

The match with Stars and Stripes started well for Mahaney's boat. In patchy 5 to 6 knots of breeze, Stars and Stripes headed left and Young America sailed right with a two-second edge at the gun.

Up the first leg, Young America seemed to find the better wind on its side of the course and cleared out to a 1 minute, 56 second lead at the top mark.

"It was very light and shifty," said Mahaney. "We were seeing huge differences in velocity, with two breezes fighting each other. And I think we had a little speed edge on Dennis."

But trouble struck for the syndicate from Bangor, Maine, at the end of the first run. During a down wind tack, or gybe, its sail twisted into an hourglass shape. As the sail was dropped to clear the tangle, a halyard twisted around the mast causing more problems. Young America continued on with a

partly set sail.

Under full sail, Stars and Stripes took advantage of the mess on board its rival and moved into the passing lane to lead by 29 seconds at the second mark. Conner's boat stretched its lead to more than two minutes over the next two legs.

In the light conditions, Young America fought back and on the final upwind leg Mahaney had closed the gap to 23 seconds.

"Much of it was the shifting wind, being in the right place at the right time," Mahaney said.

To the surprise of Stars and Stripes, Young America moved ahead and clinched a comfortable lead, and crossed the finish line 1 minute, 46 seconds in front.

"It's not a big deal, but it's not the world's most pleasant thing," said Stars and Stripes co-helmsman Paul Cayard about giving up the lead on the last leg. "But it is a four-month-long regatta and worse things than that are going to happen to the winner."

On the Louis Vuitton Challenger Course, John Bertrand's OneAustralia retired from its match against Japan's Nippon Challenge after a spreader bar, which holds the steel lines supporting the mast, snapped.

"It went off like a cannon," said skipper Bertrand.

Nippon was awarded the two points for the victory by completing the 18.55-mile (30 km) long course.



The crew of Young America prepares to set a spinnaker while turling the windward mark to head downwind in her race against Stars and Stripes during the America's Cup Challenger's (AFP photo)

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Beckenbauer rejects Nike, signs with Adidas

MUNICH (AFP) — Franz Beckenbauer has signed a 20 million German mark deal (\$13 million) to promote Adidas sportswear for 10 years, rejecting approaches from American company Nike. Beckenbauer, World Cup winner as a player and manager, has been tied by contract to Adidas for years but the Americans offered him more money to promote their line of sportswear. But Adidas agreed to match the offer for Beckenbauer, now president of football league club Bayern Munich, his manager Robert Schwann told the German daily Bild.

#### Meola signs with Rio team

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The U.S. World Cup team goalie, Tony Meola, will return to playing soccer for a Brazilian club after failing as a National Football League kicker. Rio's Botafogo Club announced the signing late Saturday of Meola, who has recently been working as an actor. Meola will fly to Rio De Janeiro this week to pose with his new jersey, the Rio daily O Globo reported Sunday. Meola will only begin playing in March, the Rio daily added.

#### Flamengo hit six without Romario

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Romario's new club Flamengo proved they could manage without him when they hammered Freiburg 6-0 in the Rio De Janeiro championship at the weekend. Freiburg, one of several lightweight outfits in the competition, were in trouble from the second minute when key defender Pereco was sent off for a professional foul. With Barcelona signing Romario not yet fully match fit, Flamengo's goals were shared among five players. Freiburg defender Arildo supplied the sixth with an own goal. Brazil full back Branco scored the most spectacular goal when he rifled in a 25-metre shot from outside the area in the last minute.

## Nantes, Rovers slip up

LONDON (R) — The pressure of being out in front in tough European League competition took its toll on Nantes of France and Blackburn Rovers in England at the weekend.

Nantes, still unbeaten in the first division which they lead by 10 clear points, were bundled out of the French cup by third division St. Leu on penalties, while Blackburn's Premier League lead was kept down to two points by a 3-1 defeat at Tottenham.

"We have been sustaining a hell of a pace from the start of the season. We knew some day we would have to slow down a bit. That's what we are going through right now," Nantes defender Serge Le Dizet said.

Captain Jean-Michel Ferri, hoping the upset would act as a spur for Nantes, said: "We must forget about it as soon as possible, be strong and focus on the league title, which is our main goal, and the UEFA Cup."

Nantes meet Bayer Leverkusen in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals. They resume their seemingly unstoppable assault on the league title away at Rennes in a Breton Derby on Wednesday.

Blackburn have been eliminated from the free cup competitions this season, including the UEFA Cup in September before they hit a purple patch in the league in which they dropped only two points in 12 matches between late October and mid-January.

With only the championship to concentrate on, Rovers looked set to pull ever further away from the field — the more so when second placed Manchester United were obliged to ban Eric Cantona for the remainder of the season.

But while the champions, who beat Rovers 1-0 at home two weeks ago, picked up seven points from their last three matches, Blackburn faltered badly, a home draw with Leeds being followed by the defeat at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH  
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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q83 ♣KJ10 ♠8732 ♠43  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠76 ♠89 ♠A8764 ♠Q942  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠76 ♠Q1065 ♠89 ♠46732  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠QJ72 ♠84 ♠K76 ♠AQ105  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♣  
?  
What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ84 ♠76 ♠A865 ♠743  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠74 ♠KJ74 ♠A865 ♠A103  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?  
?—Weak  
What do you bid now?



## Brown: Violence blocks investments

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said Monday that continued violence was a major obstacle to private investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Investors want a certain comfort level," Mr. Brown told reporters. "They want to know that their investments are safe... and that kind of assurance must come from people in the region."

U.S. officials travelling with Mr. Brown said that since autonomy began last May, only one private U.S.-Palestinian venture was formed, a factory making building materials in the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. government offers private investors loan guarantees and political risk insurance as incentives, the officials said.

Mr. Brown, accompanied by American business executives, arrived in Israel Sunday on the first leg of a week-long Middle East tour promoting U.S. trade and investment in the region. On his agenda are meetings with Israeli and Palestinian business and political leaders.

Mr. Brown also tempered his initial criticism of Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The closure, imposed after a Jan. 22 suicide bombing, bars tens of thousands of Palestinian labourers from reaching jobs in Israel.

Mr. Brown said Sunday that the restrictions were "devastating economically" for the Palestinians.

Asked to comment further on the issue Monday, he said: "I certainly understand the security needs of the closure."

"The unfortunate thing is that many people are punished for terrorist acts that are just absolutely unacceptable and must be dealt with," Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Brown will meet Tuesday with Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza to discuss investment projects in the West Bank and Gaza.

Later this week, Mr. Brown will attend a regional trade summit with Jordanian, Israeli, Egyptian and Palestinian officials in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

Mr. Brown called the meeting "historic" and looked forward to greater cooperation, removing trade barriers and enhancing the role of the private sector in the Middle East.

His trip, which began in Cairo on Sunday, also takes in the West Bank, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"To build lasting peace and stability we must ensure the region has a strong economic foundation," he said.

Israel and the United States issued a joint communique during Mr. Brown's visit declaring 1995 the "year of U.S.-Israeli free trade" to be marked by a series of joint ventures and encouragement for bilateral trade and investment.

On Jan. 1, duty was lifted on all goods covered in the 1985 U.S.-Israel free trade agreement.

Mr. Brown sealed a cooperation accord with Energy Minister Gonen Segev allowing U.S. power companies to enter the Israeli market, officials said.

American companies would be able to take a share of up to a fifth of the country's electricity needs, 900 megawatts.

Two U.S. companies, Mid-Atlantic and Global, have proposed projects which would generate from 150 to 200 megawatts.

Shaath warns U.S.

Palestinian negotiator Nabih Shaath on Sunday warned a congressional initiative to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem could destroy peace negotiations with Israel.



A Chechen fighter with a Kalashnikov sits in the office of the Chechen state security department of Ochkhoy. Marton as some children watch him through the window. Ochkhoy-Martan is one of the centres of Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's forces that is being encircled by Russian troops (AFP photo)

## Russians continue raids; refugees flee Grozny

ALKHAN-YURT, Russia (AP) — Russian warplanes pelted this town southwest of Grozny with bombs Monday, and more refugees streamed out of Chechnya as widespread fighting continued in the Grozny area.

Chechen fighters said the Russians had resumed bombing oil and chemical factories in and around the shattered capital. They said the tactic was a sign of Russian frustration at still having failed to seize Grozny.

"It means they're losing hope of taking Grozny," said Salauddin Kitayev, a chief in the Chechen special forces, standing at a crossroads about 10 kilometres from Grozny. "Otherwise, they'd save the factories for themselves."

As Mr. Kitayev spoke, a Russian plane roared unseen overhead and delivered a bomb strike through thick clouds on the centre of Alkhan-Yurt, about three kilometres away. Minutes later, another bomber followed suit.

Chechens at the crossroads did not even flinch at the air raid, hardened by nearly two months of war in their homeland. It was not immediately clear whether the bombs had caused serious damage or casualties.

Khaki-clad Chechen fighters emerging from Grozny said their forces were tightening a circle around a force of about 70 Russian tanks and other armoured vehicles in the southern suburb of Prigorodnoye, where they said a big battle was under way.

Scattered fighting also was reported inside the city, south of the Sunzha River, as the Russians tried to establish control.

The clashes were driving more and more refugees out of secessionist Chechnya, bound mostly for neighbouring Ingushetia in mud-caked buses, packed cars and canvas-covered trucks.

Marina Bersanova, carrying three bags and shepherding her two small children ahead of her, said the overnight bombing on her area west of Grozny finally persuaded her to leave.

"The planes were flying literally right over our houses," said Ms. Bersanova, 30, as she arrived in the Ingush capital, Nazran. "The children were crying. They were very afraid. It is impossible to live there any longer."

An official in Ingushetia said Sunday that his republic's population has swelled by half by the Chechen outflow, and the situation is fast becoming critical.

Some refugees have gone on to neighbouring north Ossetia, Dagestan or elsewhere in Russia. But most stay in tiny Ingushetia, crammed into emergency housing or squeezed into private homes and putting tremendous stress on the already battered economy.

About 10,000 people have been arriving from Chechnya every week since Russian troops invaded the territory on Dec. 11 to suppress its claim to independence.

The Ingush share a common language, culture and the Muslim faith with the Chechens but are paying a high price for their hospitality.

There are now more than 140,000 refugees, the majority of them from Chechnya, in a region of 260,000 permanent residents.

Nazir Doskiyev, head of the Ingush immigration office, called it a "very bad situation."

"Soon there may be a deficit of food, beds and medicine here," he said. "Sunday, 'if the refugees stay until summer, there may also be an epidemic. These are not reasonable living conditions.'"

The estimated 50,000 people remaining in Grozny are living without water, heat, medicine or any safe way to get food, said Jean-Louis Lacaze, the director of operations for Doctors Without Borders in Chechnya.

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## Strategic town falls to Afghan dissidents

KABUL (Agencies) — The strategic northern town of Kunduz has fallen to forces opposed to Afghanistan's President Burhanuddin Rabbani, a spokesman for Mr. Rabbani's defence ministry said on Monday.

The spokesman, Dr. Abdullah, said the city fell to troops allied to northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum on Sunday.

"Dostum's forces launched a major two-pronged assault from the town of Aliabad about 25 kilometres to the south, and from the Charadur bridge west of the city early on Sunday morning," he said.

"We managed to repel the attack, but couldn't hold our lines against a second advance, also from Aliabad," he said.

Dr. Abdullah said the attackers rolled back the 54th division from its base at the airport and by early evening they had taken the city.

Casualty figures were unavailable.

Dr. Abdullah said the defenders, who are allied to Mr. Rabbani, regrouped in villages to the northeast of Kunduz city and were poised to launch a counterattack.

"The last time Dostum tried this was in March last year, but he could only hold the town for six days," Dr. Abdullah said.

"He doesn't have the support of the people, so I think it will be impossible for him to maintain control over the city for any length of time. He couldn't do it last year and I don't think he'll do it again."

Dr. Abdullah accused Uzbekistan of supplying General Dostum's forces with arms for the attack on Kunduz. He said Uzbekistan believes that it will be more secure if Gen. Dostum controls all the regions along Afghanistan's northern border. Gen. Dostum is an ethnic Uzbek.

"This is their aim, but they don't understand that the only thing that will make their borders safe is to have peace in Afghanistan," Dr.

Abdullah said. "As for Dostum, I believe he thinks he can make up his losses with the people by gaining more ground, and this too is a myth."

Dr. Abdullah said that another attack by the Uzbek general's forces was expected on Sher Khan Bazaar, approximately 60 kilometres to the north of Kunduz.

This strategic border crossing on the Oxus River with Tajikistan is Afghanistan's only commercial route to Central Asia still held by the presidential forces.

Earlier Monday a spokesman for Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, Ustad Saeed, said the Hezb-e-Islami and Gen. Dostum's troops took Kunduz city on Sunday without a battle after many of Mr. Rabbani's commanders had gone over to the opposition.

The loss of Kunduz is a major blow to the Afghan president and his military commander Ahmad Shah Masoud.

Mr. Saeed said pro-Rabbani commanders started to switch sides after Kunduz airport was taken Sunday morning.

He said fighting was extending to the neighbouring province of Takhar, a Masoud stronghold, where three pro-Rabbani Uzbek commanders have also switched sides.

The fighting came as the United Nations special envoy to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, said he was close to completing negotiations for an interim governing authority to take over from the existing administration.

Mr. Mestiri's political adviser Charles Santos said on Sunday that he hopes the main factions will have agreed on a list of names to form the interim council by the end of the week.

Afghanistan's rival factions have been fighting for control of the country since the communist government fell in April 1992. The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 25,000 people have been killed since then.

## COLUMN

### Armed robbers raid London jewellers

LONDON (R) — Armed robbers took gems worth £250,000 (\$394,000) from British Queen Elizabeth's jewellers Sunday and escaped as dozens of policemen besieged an empty building believing they were still inside. Police said one of the thieves, disguised as a policeman and armed with a handgun, followed two security guards carrying a bag of jewels into the exclusive firm Garrard's in the heart of London. He let two accomplices in and the guards were overpowered, bound and gagged before the three robbers escaped in a getaway car with the jewels, including brooches and a tiara. The whole raid took around 15 minutes but 70 policemen sealed off the area for more than six hours before storming the building and discovering the robbers were no longer inside. Onlookers said the two security guards, who were wearing civilian clothes, appeared to have been arrested by police who mistook them for the crooks. "Clearly they were very professional, determined and knowledgeable criminals," detective Chief Inspector Colin Harry said. Police are hunting for the thieves.

### N. Korea issues stamps for Kim's birthday

TOKYO (R) — North Korea has issued postage stamps, postcards and envelopes to celebrate the 53rd birthday of Kim Jong-Il, the son and heir of late "great leader" Kim Il-Sung. Pyongyang's official news agency said Monday Kim Jong-Il turns 53 on Feb. 16. Seven months after the death of his father, the younger Kim has yet to be named state president or leader of the Communist Party, keeping alive speculation about his health or a power struggle. "The stamps show the leadership feats and noble personality of comrade Kim Jong-Il, who is wisely organising and leading the work of the (Communist) Party, the state and the Revolutionary Armed Forces as a whole," said the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo. "Comrade Kim Jong-Il is a great man who devotes even his birthday when he should take a rest amid the blessings of the people around the world to the accomplishment of the cause of socialism and to the happiness of the people," KCNA said.

### Belgian toddler shoots pregnant mother

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian toddler accidentally shot and seriously wounded his pregnant mother, who then gave birth prematurely, police said Monday. The accident happened late last week in the southern Belgian village of le Bizet but details have only just been released. Police said the three-year-old boy, looking as he did every evening for sweets in his father's briefcase, discovered a gun in the case. The toddler, thinking the gun was a toy, aimed it at his mother and pulled the trigger, wounding her in the abdomen. The mother, 26 weeks pregnant, was rushed to hospital in a coma and later gave birth to a baby weighing less than one kg, (2.2 pounds), police said. The mother is still in a critical condition. The baby is expected to live, the Belgian newspaper La Dernière Heure said. Police said they are probing how the toddler's father came into the possession of the gun, which he allegedly found but did not hand into the police.

### Police save burglar from drowning

BLOIS, France (AFP) — A burglar who tried to escape from his pursuers by swimming across a swollen river was saved from drowning by two gendarmes, police said Monday. Bouchard Oukil, 25, crashed a stolen car as he tried to flee and drove into the swirling waters of the River Braye, but soon got into difficulties. He was pulled out of the river by two gendarmes, given a hospital checkup and jailed in this Loire Valley city Saturday.

## Report blames militia for Beirut chemical dumping

BEIRUT (AP) — Authorities Monday implicated an outlawed Christian militia in the import and dumping of Italian toxic waste in the late 1980s.

A classified army intelligence report read to parliament's environment committee said 20 members of the now-defunct Lebanese Forces militia were involved. The militia, the Christians' main fighting machine in the 1975-1990 civil war, was then in control of the Christian heartland north of Beirut.

The environmental organisation Greenpeace last week said analysis of a few barrels of waste it discovered showed traces of toxic compounds methyl acetate and ethyl acetate but no radioactive material.

The Greenpeace disclosure came amid a public outcry demanding information about what happened to the thousands of barrels of chemicals believed dumped on land or off the coast during the war.

The crisis has shaken the cohesion of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's government.

Former Druze warlord Walid Junblatt, now minister of refugees, has called for the dismissal and trial of Environment Minister Samir Mogbel.

Mr. Mogbel has denied any wrongdoing. Greenpeace estimates

10,000 barrels, or 15,000 tonnes, of waste remain in Lebanon and pose a serious ecological danger. However, other environmental experts say the number of missing barrels is under 2,000.

The experts said some contaminated barrels were emptied and sold for use in pickling, soap-making and other uses they felt could be harmful to one's health.

The barrels were imported from Italy in 1987 and 1988, according to Greenpeace and the army intelligence report. Thousands of barrels have since been returned to Italy because of public pressure.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor General Munif Oweidat reversed a 1988 pardon on the dumping of chemical waste and decided to investigate later this week.

The Lebanese Forces commander Samir Geagea and top lieutenant Foad Malek are in jail, standing trial for the bombing that was an attempt to discredit the government and reignite the civil war.

Mr. Geagea is also on trial for the 1990 assassination of a rival Christian politician.

Mr. Geagea, who flirted with Israel during the civil war, has denied any involvement in the church bombing and the assassination, saying he was being victimised because of his opposition to Lebanon's current Syrian-backed regime.

## Latest Iraq contraband suspect — dates, not oil

BAHRAIN (AP) — A key task for the U.S.-led naval armada in the Gulf is to make sure Iraq does not violate the world embargo by exporting oil. But lately, it has been tracking other contraband — dates.

Four ships stopped in the Gulf in recent months were loaded with dates, including the Panamanian-registered Gulf Splendor, whose 2,100-tonne cargo has stirred an unprecedented fuss.

The shippers insist the dates were loaded in an Iranian port. But the U.S. Navy, which impounded the ship Jan. 18, says it has strong evidence the cargo came from Iraq.

Under the U.N. embargo, Iraq is forbidden from exporting not just oil but also virtually all other goods.

The allied naval force has diverted more than 500 vessels since the sanctions were imposed in August 1990, but no incident so far has created such a stir.

The fuss began last week after the Gulf Splendor was escorted to Umm Al Quwain, a port in the United Arab Emirates, to await further action by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

The ship had been destined for Bombay for a Bangalore-based importer, and the strong Indian community in the UAE swung into action to try to get the vessel released.

Officials from both the Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi and the consulate in Dubai visited the 15-member Indian crew and made arrangements for the supply of provisions.

Indian diplomats began spreading word that they doubted the U.S. Navy was right in impounding the vessel, taking the crew's word that the cargo was loaded at the Iranian port of Abadan.

Iran has complained at the United Nations over alleged harassment of ships that ply its ports.

There is a lack of sincerity in Iraq's attitude towards Iran," he said. "Iraqi officials compromise relations with Iran and use it as a leverage in their great effort to get close to certain Western countries with which we have problems."

He said the two neighbours were also divided by Baghdad's support for Iranian opposition groups, notably the main armed rebel faction, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

"Every time we were to have negotiations, there was an attack from the opposition groups based in Iraq," Mr. Velayati said. "This will definitely not create a friendly atmosphere for normalised ties."

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## Court rejects Carlos plea

PARIS (AFP) — A court here on Monday rejected an application by Carlos the Jackal for his release in connection with an indictment for a 1983 attack on a high-speed Marseille-Paris train which killed three people and injured 20.

Lawyers Jacques Verges and Mourad Qussaidi had appealed against an order by anti-terrorist Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere committing Carlos to prison after charging him with the train attack on Jan. 8.

The court also rejected an application that the hearing be held in public.

According to judicial sources, Carlos complained in court Monday of his detention in solitary confinement. He argued that the case was political and not a common felony, the sources said.

Mr. Qussaidi protested rejection of the application for a public hearing, saying: "For the past six months, Carlos has been condemned to absolute silence and cannot defend himself either in the media or before French and international public opinion."

Carlos, who has been in custody in Paris since being arrested in Sudan and brought here last August, has already been charged in connection with a number of other attacks in France during the 1980s and had been held in the Sante prison here on those charges.

Carlos — real name Illich Ramirez Sanchez — was sent to France after being arrested to the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Aug. 15 last year.

Also last month he was indicted over a 1983 bombing at Marseille railway station which killed two people and injured 34.

Last year he was charged with a Paris bomb attack in March 1982 which killed one person and injured 63, and with the bombing of a Paris-Toulouse train in the same month which killed five.

## Ties with U.S. will not solve economic woes — Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's economic problems would not be solved just by resuming diplomatic ties with the United States, Iran's foreign minister said in an interview published Monday.

Ali Akbar Velayati told the daily Salaam that "those who consider a relationship with the United States a panacea are definitely making a mistake."

"We have many examples of countries which had the same expectations, but got nowhere."

He said the countries of the former Soviet Union once had high expectations of U.S. aid, but had received disappointingly little.

Iran's problems, said Mr. Velayati, could only be solved by Iranians themselves.

"The problems of the Islamic Republic of Iran are not going to be solved by giving ransom to the United States," Mr. Velayati said.

The Iranian government has been unable to burrow out economic difficulties mainly caused by the huge losses of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Despite having no formal ties, the United States is among Iran's top trade partners, with most commerce conducted through third parties or countries.

On the international scene, Washington has been trying to isolate Iran because of its opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process and hostility towards Washington's policies in the region.

The Farsi-language newspaper, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press in Nicosia, quoted Mr.

Velayati as saying he did not see the possibility of Iran-U.S. ties being resumed in the near future.

The United States severed ties with Iran in 1979, after militants stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Touching on other topics, Mr. Velayati said Iran was the only country that was unwilling to make any compromise with Israel, and was fundamentally opposed to its existence. He said that was why Tehran was opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"We prevent it where we have more influence and we express our opposition where we have a lesser presence," Mr. Velayati said. He added that his country, which fought a bitter eight-year war

with Iraq, had no problems with improving ties with Baghdad.

There is a lack of sincerity in Iraq's attitude towards Iran," he said. "Iraqi officials compromise relations with Iran and use it as a leverage in their great effort to get close to certain Western countries with which we have problems."

He said the two neighbours were also divided by Baghdad's support for Iranian opposition groups, notably the main armed rebel faction, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

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هڪا من الاصل